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First name: Grady

Last name: James

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Born and raised in Durango, I was taught the value of our Public Lands and the grandeur of the San Juans has kept me from leaving this place.

Since its inception, in 1905, by Theodore Roosevelt, the United States Forest Service has been tasked with managing the natural resources within our National Forests through strategic extraction and conservation. Led at the time by Gifford Pinchot, the strategy was established that these resources should yield "the greatest good, for the greatest number, for the longest time." It is with that in mind that I support the following requests, as planned for execution through Durango Trails. I write this letter primarily representing the mountain bike community, but acknowledge all user groups at the table.

Please allow for the specific Log Chutes downhill mountain bike trails both to rehab on-the-ground trails and to build 3 to 4 new trails utilizing 400 feet of center line of some of the proposed downhill trails. This terrain and road access is ideal for acknowledging the increasing demand of downhill specific trails that more and more users are seeking. It will help deter illegally built trails of the same genre if legally built, sustainable trails are already in place. Furthermore, the location relative to town helps secure use when Purgatory's bike park is not open in the shoulder seasons.

Please allow for Category 1 pedal assist eMTBs to be allowed on the existing Log Chutes 1, 11,111 and WestView mountain bike trails. The convenience of access from town would be an easy sell for E-bike users to pedal from town and reduce vehicle parking and road use. E-bike designated trails could also reduce the number of vehicle shuttles for the downhill trails.

Please consider a significant vegetation barrier while undertaking the fuels project so the feel of twisty singletrack remains while still undertaking the important thinning project. If the entire trail area is clear cut, the feeling of singletrack will be lost and will lead to trail cutting and braiding.

Please allow for a connector from CR 203, Falls Creek up to Junction Creek Road to the Colorado Trail as proposed by Durango Trails. This is an on-the-ground old alignment that would create great connectivity for mountain bikers, hikers, and hunters as well as a fire line access.

A connector trail from Durango Estates to Log Chutes would be a great addition.

We support grooming Junction Creek Road and the Junction Creek campground as proposed by Durango Trails in 2016 for fat biking and cross-country skiing. Please do not allow cars to drive past the gate and park on the road, especially if resources are going to be used to groom the road.