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Title:

Comments: I would like to comment on the proposed Junction Creek Riparian Corridor and Trail, Logchutes, and Falls Creek/Hidden Valley JFIRM Project.

Please allow for the specific Log Chutes downhill mountain bike trails both to rehab on-the-ground trails and to build up to 4 new trails utilizing 400 feet of center line of some of the proposed downhill trails. Machine built downhill specific trails would be a great asset to our community. These type of trails are not well represented today in the community and these additions would really help serve a growing and large part of the Durango Community. This area has a great potential for these types of trail as the landscape has a lot of rock for sustainable challenging trail. Also, maintenance points are easy for trail access with the existing road structure meaning these trails will be well maintained into the future. Maintenance and creation of these trails can be assisted by Durango Trails which has a dedicated trail crew and large volunteer base with an established history of maintenance of trails on Forest Service land. I would recommend considering these new trails for downhill mountain bike traffic only as this will reduce conflict between user groups.

Please allow for Category 1 pedal assist eMTBs to be allowed on the existing Log Chutes 1, 11,111 and WestView mountain bike trails. These areas are very appropriate to E-bikes as there are roads in most cases to climb and allowing ebikes will reduce overall impact of the area as less cars will be shuttling the road, meaning less road maintenance. Additional trail maintenance will not be increased as the downhill traffic will remain consistent with current mountain bike usage.

Please consider a significant vegetation barrier within 50-100' of new and existing trails while undertaking the fuels 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 and hikers, as well as a fire line access.

A connector trail from Durango Estates to Log Chutes would be a great addition as well for an alternate access point to Log Chutes.

I also support grooming Junction Creek Road and the Junction Creek campground as proposed by Durango Trails in 2016 for fat biking and cross-country skiing. This would create a great recreational opportunity for visitors as well as locals close by. Today this type of recreation is outside of town and this will allow the ability to do this in town. 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.