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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I regularly hike, mountain bike and X-country ski in the Log Chutes area, and submit the following comments on the Junction-Falls Proposed Management Plan. But for the Durango Herald article this morning, I would not have known, and I expect most people who are not associated with an interest group would not have known, that the deadline for comments is tomorrow, October 14. USFS should consider extending the comment period for 30 days to give all interested citizens an opportunity to comment on the proposal.

1. I strongly support the winter grooming of Junction Creek Road. This would be a great addition to the groomed trail network in our area.
2. I oppose paving or chip-sealing of Junction Creek Road. A paved surface would likely increase the speed of vehicle traffic. The road has many blind corners and this would be a danger to walkers and cyclists on the road. Right now the road becomes badly washboarded but the money to be spent on paving and the continued maintenance of a paved road could be spent instead on more frequent grading of the road up to the Animas Overlook.
3. The proposal to add the downhill MTB trails addresses the needs of only one sub-set of the mountain bikers who use the area. Any new trails should only be considered as part of a comprehensive MTB trail plan which includes opening up some or all trails to Class 1 pedal-assist bikes, which now have virtually no access to area trails.
4. It is unclear to me what it means to bring the first 1.1 miles of the Colorado Trail to ADA standard. That stretch of trail is narrow, rough and rocky in many places. What exactly is proposed here? Would the surface of the trail be smoothed out somehow? Widened? Paved? Packed gravel? This proposal needs to be more detailed.