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Comments: It's very exciting to see an expansion of trails but there is one trail that I do not support, the Sheep Mountain Traverse trail.

As stated in the Trails Proposal, sections of the Option A Sheep Mountain Traverse trail would exist on the boundary of the proposed Sheep Mountain Special Management Area (SMA). Option B would skirt the proposed boundary. The Sheep Mountain SMA is part of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE Act) a cornerstone of Colorado public lands policy that is currently in Congress. Establishing an SMA in this area would ensure wildlife habitat remains undisturbed, and wilderness characteristics preserved.

While Option B of the Sheep Mountain Traverse trail skirts the boundary of the SMA, both options ultimately propose a similar outcome - a new trail in a zone that has multiple wilderness characteristics. These quiet, dense spruce forests act as critical lynx habitat, and remain a relatively undisturbed ecosystem. We believe that not only would introducing a multi-use trail in this zone have negative implications for lynx, it could also conflict with a wilderness bill that locals in the San Juans have been working towards for decades.

Regardless of when the CORE Act passes, these wilderness characteristics speak for themselves, and are worthy of protection and this trail would cause impacts that don't support wilderness characteristics or protections.