

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/13/2024 5:37:26 PM

First name: Kiernan

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Organization: Telluride Historical Museum

Title: Executive Director

Comments: Ms. Krystina Smith

USFS Norwood Ranger District

P.O. Box 388

1150 Forest Street

Norwood, CO 81423

Dear Ms. Smith

I am writing on behalf of the Telluride Historical Museum to offer our most ardent support for the Telluride Mountain Club's new trails proposal.

The Telluride Mountain Club's proposal would benefit the Telluride region in a number of ways including adding significant new recreational opportunities to an area in which interest in such pursuits is growing quickly enough that existing trails are consistently overused and congested; providing increased variety in terms of terrain, difficulty level, and use to the region's public trail inventory; and highlighting some of the area's most important history.

It is this last point that is of the most interest to the Telluride Historical Museum and why we want to specifically register our support and unreserved enthusiasm for the proposed Ilium Flume Trail.

The Telluride region's history is incredibly rich and vibrant. It has importance that extends to a national level. The story of the Ames hydroelectric plant, including the subsequent expansion of the electrical grid that was established with it and the area's role in the eventual electrification of the country, is arguably the most significant history in the region. The Ilium Flume Trail, which is proposed to follow the remnants of the wooden flume that extended from Ames to what was originally the Ilium Hydroelectric Power Plant (the second generating installation on this fledgling grid), would allow users to engage with this critically important history in a new and exciting way. The trail would also be an ideal location for interpretive panels that could help highlight both the broader historical significance of the hydropower endeavors in the Ilium Valley and specifically the role the flume played in this operation. The Telluride Historical Museum would be excited to partner with the USFS, Telluride Mountain Club, and County Historical Commission in the creation and installation of this signage.

The Ilium Flume Trail is a perfect combination of recreation and history and, as such, it makes a great deal of sense for a region whose residents and visitors are incredibly enthusiastic about and interested in both pursuits. Opportunities that provide such ideal access to two of the most prominent drivers of visitation to the region do not come around very often; it would be a shame not to take advantage of this one.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Kiernan Lannon

Executive Director

Telluride Historical Museum