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First name: Carrie

Last name: KOenig

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a 33-year resident and avid outdoor recreationalist, I am excited about the proposed trails recently put forward by the Telluride Mountain Club. I look forward to most of the trail expansion with the exception of the Sheep Mountain traverse which cuts through the proposed Sheep Mountain Special Management area.

The Sheep Mountain Special Management Area is part of the strongly supported CORE Act. I remember the very thorough, thoughtful, and collaborative process (including some compromises between conservationist and recreationalists) which led to the San Juan Wilderness Act (now a part of the larger CORE Act). It was exemplary and I wish the Mountain Club would work more closely with Sheep Mountain Alliance before going public with future trail proposals in areas that are already slated for conservation. The existing Galloping Goose trail that parallels the proposed Sheep Mountain traverse already offers sufficient connectivity and a wide enough path to accommodate users. It is also a tourist attraction because of its historical significance.

The public has already spoken out strongly against the previously proposed "Hidden Lake" bike trail for many of the same reasons. These types of proposals (within the proposed Sheep Mountain Special Management Area) are grossly inconsistent with the direction the community took when drafting the San Juan Wilderness Act.

There is a need for some trail expansion, but let's avoid our most environmentally sensitive areas, especially when it's redundant for trail "connectivity". The other proposed trails offer much more value to the community and I hope the Telluride Mountain Club can focus on these rather than facing another round of staunch opposition to building new trails within the proposed Sheep Mountain Special Management Area. I cannot support the expansion of trails in this environmentally sensitive area.