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First name: Scott

Last name: Bengé

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my strong support for the Telluride Mountain Club (TMtC) trail proposal project submitted to the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Norwood Ranger District. The proposed addition of over 15 miles of new trails and approximately 5 miles of trail rehabilitation for non-motorized use would significantly enhance outdoor recreational opportunities in the Telluride region while simultaneously promoting conservation efforts and protecting critical wildlife habitats.

The proposed trails would not only address the growing demand for trail-based recreation but also improve public safety, trail connectivity, variety, and accessibility on National Forest System lands surrounding Telluride, Colorado. Furthermore, the commitment to adhering to National Trail Standards and sustainability protocols demonstrates a commendable dedication to environmental stewardship.

Collaboration between TMtC and GMUG, as well as contracting with SE Group for resource surveys and analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act, ensures that the project undergoes thorough examination and review by experts. This collaborative approach instills confidence that the proposed trails will be thoughtfully designed and implemented with careful consideration of ecological impacts and user needs.

The proposed non-motorized use trails for new construction, including the Mountain Village to Valley Floor Connector trail, South Side Perimeter trail, and others, offer diverse experiences for various user groups while promoting responsible outdoor recreation.

In conclusion, I urge the Forest Service to approve the TMtC trail proposal project, recognizing its potential to enhance both recreational opportunities and conservation efforts in the Telluride area. Thank you for considering my comments in support of this important initiative.