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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings,

I am writing to express my full support for Telluride Mountain Club's (TMC) trail proposal. As a regional user of non-motorized trails, I am confident the thoughtfully proposed trail additions and trail rehabilitation projects will add great value to the community while preserving and protecting environmental resources.

Currently, there is a lack of trail connectivity in the Telluride region, resulting in major safety issues as users will often take to state highways, town or county roads in order to piece together a 'loop'. The Illium Flume trail, T35 uphill and parking lots, and Southside perimeter trail would immediately alleviate these unwanted safety pressures. Furthermore, Mountain Village to Valley floor trails would also increase connectivity and minimize users walking or riding through busy Lawson Hill; where there is only a patchwork of unmarked paths to get users from Jurassic Trail to the Valley Floor.

Adding the Sheep Mountain Traverse and rehabilitating the old Sunshine Mesa Trail will spread users out in a thoughtful and environmentally friendly way. There is plenty of human usage in these areas already, and is the logical place to create/recreate sustainable trails.

The sum of TMCs proposed trail expansions and rehabs will create better access to our public lands for those who cannot afford a lift ticket. This expansion is the correct step toward future recreational goals that fully align with the community's desire for additional recreational trail opportunities while protecting and preserving natural areas, critical wildlife habitats, and minimizing impacts to watersheds.

Sincerely,

Andrew Merrill