

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/20/2025 9:25:56 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: RE: proposed South Side Perimeter Trail

We are fortunate in Telluride to have a plethora of trails to enjoy: 152 miles in greater Telluride/Mtn Village according to the Telluride Mountain Club. With such an expansive trail network, TMC's focus on "Maintaining, Preserving, and Enhancing Telluride's Outdoor Recreation Since 1986" is particularly helpful, even vital.

Rather than build a new trail, like the proposed SSPT, along one of the few remaining undisturbed hillsides near town, I would prefer to see TMC (and USFS) spend resources on maintaining/enhancing those trails we already have. We do not need another to Bridal Veil trail (in addition to the Idarado Legacy trail from town), much less one that will disturb and deface a virgin hillside in the box canyon.

According to TMC data, maintaining a mile of existing trail costs about \$1500 annually. Building new trails can cost upwards of \$45,000 per mile. One would imagine the SSPT would come in on the high side of those numbers, given the topography and traffic. But sticking with their average estimates, instead of the 2 miles of SSPT, TMC could maintain 60 miles of existing trails.

Sounds like a win-win: Avoid cutting a new trail through a pristine hillside while taking care of 60 miles of existing trails.

Sincerely,

Patricia Morton

"The battle for conservation must go on endlessly. It is part of the universal warfare between right and wrong" - John Muir