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Comments: I am writing to express my concern over the proposed Telluride Southside Perimeter Trail. I feel the focus of TMC should be on maintaining the wonderful trails that already exist, instead of carving into the pristine hillside and taking away from the beauty of the box canyon. Currently, the Idarado river trail satisfies this route. Sadly, this trail has been damaged by mudslides over the past couple of years. Once the City, County and Idarado HOA get our engineering plan together for a stable Civil Engineering solution, this trail should be optimized for use.

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.

More isn't necessarily better. Let's spend more time and resources on our existing trails that clearly need improvements.

Sincerely,
Kyle Smith