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First name: Ted

Last name: Staloch

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear U.S. Forest Service and Telluride Mountain Club,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the proposed South Side Perimeter hiking trail, which would bring increased foot traffic near my home. Currently, we have a fully functional Idarado Legacy trail, literally steps from our home, which carries all the risk below. So adding to this particular trail would pose significant increase risk and challenges for our community, including safety risks, impacts on privacy, and environmental disruption.

One major issue is the increase in vehicle traffic. Our local roads were not designed to handle a high influx of visitors, and the additional cars would contribute to congestion, parking difficulties, and added wear and tear. More importantly, it would create safety hazards for pedestrians, children, and pets, especially on roads without sidewalks.

Another concern is the potential for hikers to stray from designated paths and onto private property. Experience with other high-use trails has shown that even with clear signage, visitors often wander off course, whether accidentally or intentionally. Without proper measures in place, this could lead to trespassing, noise disturbances, and litter-disrupting the quiet character of the neighborhood. All issues we currently experience with the Idarado Legacy trail.

The environmental impact also cannot be overlooked. The area where this trail is planned is home to sensitive ecosystems and wildlife that could be negatively affected by increased foot traffic. Erosion, habitat destruction, and disturbances from off-leash dogs are very real risks.

Perhaps the most pressing question is whether this trail is even necessary. The existing River Trail already provides a well-maintained and scenic route that serves the same general purpose without imposing additional strain on local infrastructure or wildlife.

I urge you to reconsider this project and instead direct resources toward preserving this area and maintaining the current trail next to our home.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these concerns.

Ted Staloch

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