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First name: Elizabeth

Last name: Cutler

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service and Mountain Club -

I'm writing to express my personal opposition to the proposed South Side Perimeter hiking trail.

I am a huge fan of the Mountain Club and all the work that the Forest Service does. I have been the beneficiary of being able to hike around Telluride on all the beautiful trails that have been maintained as a result of your collective efforts for nearly 40 years. I have a lot of gratitude for your work.

As a resident of Pandora Lane, I've noticed an increased animal traffic through my property largely because of development around me, this worries me in regard to the development of a trail on the steep side of the hill opposite the river. I have seen elk, deer, fox, coyote, and even bear, on a regular basis sometimes multiple times a day times a day. They make their way down to the water and I have to believe they do the same on the opposite side of the river.

Given the amount of space that's necessary to maintain our ecosystem and the pathways that the animals use every day all year round, I have significant concerns about the impact of the trail on them and the delicate vegetation which is on the hillside. It seems to me that the risks in this case are not in service of the greater community. I believe we need to find another place to develop rather than the proposed trail.

I also worry about rock slides and the canyon releases that happen in the spring having a significant impact on the trail and it becoming difficult to maintain.

Personally I don't find this project to be additive to the region, I think there are so many other more worthy trails to consider and fund.

I urge you to reconsider this project and prioritize other trail efforts.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my strong concerns.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Cutler