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First name: Jessica

Last name: Crabtree

Organization:

Title:

Comments: RE: Opposition to Proposed South Side Perimeter Hiking Trail

To: United States Forest Service and Telluride Mountain Club

Dear US Forest Service and Telluride Mountain Club,

I am writing to state my opposition to the proposed new trail being considered named South Side Perimeter Hiking Trail. Our home is slated to be built just north of this proposed trail, beginning this summer. We purchased our lot nearly 2 years ago and have since spent countless hours in our new neighborhood. We have appreciated the beauty of the untouched wilderness on the mountains to the south of our neighborhood. We have seen the various types of wildlife that this special box canyon is home to.

I love to hike. I enjoy the Bridal Veil trail, as do many of the visitors that come to Telluride. I have also seen the progression of destruction that a new trail brings. The eroding of land surrounding the trail, the trash left behind by the visitors, the wildlife interruption by the off-leash dogs that run off the trail, the noise from the hundreds of hikers. This is part of the reason that I am stating my opposition to yet another trail through a pristine mountain and wildlife sanctuary.

I also worry about the easier access to ice climbing and rock climbing on the sides of the mountain on the south side of our new neighborhood. The waterfalls and steep cliffs are going to be too much of a temptation to inexperienced climbers on the new trail and I fear countless rescue operations and injuries or possibly deaths may occur.

The existing River Trail and beautiful Idarado Legacy Trail is already in place to offer a hiker's route to the connect with the new Bridal Veil trail. The amount of money that it will cost to put in and maintain a new South Side Perimeter Trail upwards of \$45,000 per mile and at least \$1,500 per mile a year to maintain could be put to better use maintaining and upgrading the existing trails in the area.

Please accept this as my formal opposition to the building of this new South Side Perimeter Trail and consider maintaining existing trails in Telluride rather than carving out a pristine woodland and disturbing the wildlife and the neighborhood it will impact.

Sincerely,

Jessica Crabtree