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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Subject: Concerns Regarding the Proposed South Side Perimeter Trail

To: United States Forest Service and Telluride Mountain Club

I am reaching out as a land/homeowner and member of the Idarado Legacy HOA to voice our collective concerns about the proposed hiking trail along the south side of our community. While we recognize the value of outdoor recreation and the enjoyment of nature, we believe this specific proposal poses significant risks to our neighborhood's safety, privacy, and most importantly environmental health.

The anticipated increase in hikers could lead to severe traffic issues on our local roads, which were not designed for such high volumes. This influx of vehicles would create unsafe conditions for our residents, especially children and pets, as the roads may become congested and hazardous.

Moreover, the trail's proximity to private properties raises concerns about privacy and security. Historical patterns from similar trails suggest that hikers often wander onto private lands, which can lead to conflicts and disturbances for residents. This potential for trespassing not only threatens our community's peaceful atmosphere but may also result in property damage and liability issues.

We are also deeply worried about the environmental implications of the proposed trail. The area in question is home to diverse wildlife and sensitive ecosystems that could be severely impacted by increased foot traffic. Erosion, littering, and disruption of natural habitats are serious risks that should not be ignored. Additionally, the issue of off-leash dogs, which has already been problematic on existing trails, could further endanger local wildlife, particularly during critical times of the year.

It's important to note that the existing River Trail, which was developed with the encouragement and financial support of our HOA, effectively serves the same purpose as the proposed trail. This well-maintained route provides an enjoyable experience for hikers while minimizing risks to our community and the environment. The need for a new trail, given the adequacy of the current one, is therefore questionable and seems redundant.

In light of these concerns, we respectfully ask the Telluride Mountain Club and the US Forest Service to reconsider the merits of this proposal. We believe that focusing on the maintenance and enhancement of existing trails, or exploring new options in less sensitive areas, would be a more prudent approach. Thank you for considering our perspective on this matter. We look forward to a thoughtful discussion.

Sincerely,

Deanna and Jeremy Denning