

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/2/2025 3:34:32 PM

First name: Catherine

Last name: Frank

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service and Telluride Mountain Club,

I am writing to share my opposition to the proposed South Side Perimeter hiking trail. I have owned land on Pandora lane since 2004 and have lived in the Telluride full time for 32 years, and am very thankful and appreciative of the current beautiful trails that provided us access to nature. However the cost, location, and proximity to homes and private land is unnecessary.

Having lived in Telluride and being a part of the Idarado Legacy community, and also serving on the Design Review Board for Idarado for many years I have spent a lot of time in the canyon, on my land, and walking out to the falls and to the south by the river. I have seen a huge increase in foot traffic both on and off the road and existing trails by hikers, locals, people walking pets, and tourists, and just wanderers. The numbers of people traveling to hike the falls each year continues to increase at a rate that is unmanageable.

With this increase of visitors to the canyon area from population growth and general summer festival goers, etc. I see this causing great concern for the preservation of the wildlife and environment in the area. I already have seen personally the hikers straying from the trails, and have often found people having lunch, and hanging out at leisure on our land, leaving trash, bringing their pets to use the property as they wish and even camping out. I can't imagine how this would increase with a trail directly next to us.

A trail in this location based on the proposal would negatively provide direct access to the whole area that has been so beautifully preserved at this point. The river corridor, the tailing piles that are now green and have provided a wildlife area to be free of people and dangerous high traffic patterns to the north. I have seen large herds of elk here. Bear, deer, fox and coyotes on our land and grazing quietly in the river area to the north of Pandora lane.

The construction and building of a trail like this, along with future human foot and dog traffic by the thousands would truly cause damage to this beautiful and sensitive river zone.

I also feel adding another trail to get to the mine, and bridal area is wasteful and costly to all. The existing River Trail to the south near the road connects to the same area, is beautiful, already completed, maintained and has finally filled back in with native grasses and grown trees (that took years to happen). It is an unnecessary costly redundant proposal.

Please consider my concerns.

All the best,

Catherine Frank