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Dear Participant,

The Dolores Ranger District is now publishing the final Record of Decision for the Rico West Dolores Roads and Trail (Travel Management) project. I want to thank everyone that provided input to this project, including those that participated in commenting on previous drafts of the environmental impact statement or participated in the objection process. In light of previous public dialogue including our objection resolution discussions, I believe this decision provides an array of opportunities for public access to the Forest with the need to protect the long-term health and productivity of the land.

The final Record of Decision document has a detailed accounting of each change and is organized by subarea to make it easier to identify a particular location. Briefly, single track motorized trail opportunities are reduced in some areas, continue in others, and motorized designations are added to one non-motorized trail. The result is a change of 30 miles of single track trail to non-motorized use and a continuation of 84 miles of motorized trail riding, including the opportunity to enjoy the high vistas of the Calico National Recreation Trail and connections to adjacent landscapes. Trail improvements and realignments are also identified that will improve trail sustainability and user experience for both motorized and non-motorized uses. Seasonal restrictions on motor vehicle use would occur on trails but not roads.

The final Record of Decision includes minor changes to the road system. The final road system provides 192 miles open to motorized use and 125 miles of closed road kept for future vegetation management needs and 7 miles are for administrative use. Five miles of road are converted to trail. There will be 19 miles of trails for 62-inch vehicles (ATVs and UTVs) that connect to forest roads also available for ATV/UTV riding. Sections of road to be decommissioned make up 7 miles that were previously open to public use. The current road system is 205.5 miles open to public use so there is a total reduction of 13 miles with some of these miles changed to motorized trails.

The final Record of Decision document has a detailed accounting of each change and is organized by subarea to make it easier to identify a particular location. There are no further opportunities for formal public comment and the objection process concluded all administrative review opportunities. The final Record of Decision, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement, are available online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=44918> For paper copies of the documents please contact Debbie Kill at 970-882-6822 or the front desk at 970-882-7296 and allow 1-2 days for copying.

Sincerely,

DEREK PADILLA  
District Ranger

