

September 3, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Hardscrabble Trails Coalition (HTC), we'd like to offer comments regarding alignment of the proposed reroute of the SourceGas gas line.

The Hardscrabble Trails Coalition is an organization made up of local volunteers working to establish and improve non-motorized multi-use trails for public use and recreation surrounding Eagle and Gypsum, Colorado, so that future generations can enjoy high quality trail experiences as we enjoy today. We educate and instruct our members and the general public about multi-use trails and environmental concerns including trail building, maintenance, erosion control, and wildlife impacts. Over the past four years, HTC has partnered with the Town of Eagle, BLM, and the White River National Forest by providing stewardship, leadership, volunteers, and funding to support trail improvements, signage, closures, and safety improvements to the area.

- HTC supports other comments such as those from the Eagle Ranch Association which discourage Alternative 1 as option. This would have significant impacts to Eagle Ranch and the community, including roads, golf course, residents, and existing infrastructure.
- In review of the other alternatives, in general we strongly request that all activities be designed and coordinated in a manner which can minimize impact to recreation, views, and wildlife.
- We recommend that staging on the Arroyo parking lot be eliminated or minimized since it is a major recreation amenity which sees heavy public use. The Hernage staging area is highly recommended as an alternative to the Arroyo parking area since it would have the least impact on residents and recreation, would not damage the valuable and relatively new Arroyo parking area asset, and have minimal impacts on views.
- Please minimize impact to trails, specifically Mayer Gulch and Third Gulch which are heavily used trails for recreation and events which provide access to many other backcountry areas. If there is going to be disturbance in these areas, please provide options for re-routing the trails in the areas of disturbance.
- Please do not cause interference with bike races and other events that happen in the area every year - specifically the Firebird 40 and the VRD Mountain Bike Race Series
- Where possible, leave a singletrack trail behind areas of disturbance as coordinated with the Town of Eagle, BLM, and HTC.
- If staging on Hardscrabble Road, please make sure access beyond the staging area is not blocked.
- If improvements are deemed absolutely in busy recreation areas, it is encouraged that such work be coordinated to take place at times when such amenities are least used.
- It is recommended that other route options that do not impact the Arroyo Drive lot, Mayer Gulch and other trails be considered. We suggest using a more southern route where alternatives 2&3 meet to completely bypass the Arroyo Drive parking lot, avoid 2nd Gulch, Clover Lane and Mayer Gulch entirely.

HARDSCRABBLE TRAILS COALITION

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed alternatives. We look forward to being part of future discussions and solutions-based initiatives. Please contact me with any questions or additional requests.

Sincerely,



Adam Palmer
President
Hardscrabble Trails Coalition
www.hardscrabbletrails.org



Eagle