

Montelores Coalition finishes public meetings on outdoor plan, seeks feedback

Public input accepted until Dec. 31

By Bailey Duran Special to The Journal

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The Montelores Coalition is asking for public ideas and input on its outdoor plan. Public participation will be accepted until Wednesday, Dec. 31. (Aaron Lewis/Special to The Journal)



The Montelores Coalition seeks public feedback on its draft Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Plan. The plan was developed with input from local governments, land managers, community organizations, residents and representatives from interest groups such as ranchers and motorized sports enthusiasts, according to the coalition.

From Nov. 17 to Dec. 4, five public meetings took place in Dove Creek, Dolores, Rico, Cortez and Mancos. The Manage consent now invites additional ideas and feedback from all community members.

About 50 people attended the meetings, including local officials, business owners, farmers, recreation groups, nonprofits, wildlife experts, trail users, bikers, skiers, media and other residents.

The coalition’s website says the plan “sets goals and strategies by outlining a path toward keeping outdoor recreation opportunities that are available today and having the ability to adapt to growing demand and changing preferences.”

It added that the “core of this plan is to provide direction for the maintenance of high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities while balancing conservation of natural heritage resources, working lands and wildlife populations.”

The coalition also thanked the venues that hosted the meetings: Dove Creek Public Service Meeting Room, Dolores Community Center, Rico Town Hall, Cortez Chamber of Commerce and Mancos Community Center.

Those who missed the meetings can read the draft plan online and send comments until Dec. 31 at www.montelorescoalition.org/draftplan.

According to a press release, the Montelores Coalition is a group of local governments, tribes, agencies, recreation organizations, farmers and conservation groups. The coalition and its members work to protect lands, support communities and promote sustainable outdoor activities in Montezuma and Dolores counties.

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