

LOCAL NEWS

Access

Continued from page 17

A discrepancy between designated routes on forest maps from 1984 and new Motor Vehicle Use Maps produced after 2005 resulted in an overhaul of the travel management plan that is currently underway.

It's upsetting that the process of reviewing the travel management plan is reactive rather than a coordinated effort to create a sustainable trail and roads system for everyone, said Suesse.

Trails paid for by motorized users were being closed, he said. All OHV users in Colorado are required to purchase a \$25.25 annual license to be displayed on their vehicle.

Colorado OHV Registration Program fees fund trail maintenance, construction, trailheads, parking areas, trail signs, maps and land acquisition, according to the Colorado Department of Revenue.

"We welcome the opportunity to improve roads and trails, but the lawsuit seems like the wrong way to drive the process," Suesse said.

To meet the needs of OHV users, Suesse and groups like TPA have urged the Forest Service to improve rather than limit access within the national forests.

Trails that fulfill the users' spectrum of

needs for variety, difficulty, destinations, challenge and scenic opportunity will lead to improved management and compliance, said a statement by the TPA.

Loops and camping opportunity along motorized trails would also improve the experience for OHV users, said Suesse.

He cited Hartman Rocks, an area managed by the Bureau of Land Management near Gunnison, as an example of an area with multiple uses that meets the need of both motorized and nonmotorized users.

A well-managed system will provide diverse experiences for all users while offering more protection for the forest, he said.

Suesse, like nonmotorized users, values access to public lands throughout the region.

"We see public lands around the Arkansas Valley and elsewhere in Colorado as who we are. It is why we live here," he said.

A final draft of the travel management plan is expected to be complete sometime in 2019. As different motorized uses begin to emerge, Suesse hopes the Forest Service will take a more proactive role in travel management.

Increased popularity of side-by-side OHVs and bicycles with electric motors could present challenges to land managers in the future.

"We all want good management for the long-term health of the forest in the future," said Suesse.

Balance

Continued from page 16

Pike and San Isabel National Forests.

The 5-year study is expected to cost the Forest Service around \$1 million, said Barbara Timock, Forest Service public information officer.

This is a great opportunity to assess the roughly 500

miles of motorized roads and trails that were not permitted legally, said John Sztukowski of Wild Connection, a local conservation group that was not part of the initial lawsuit.

"We would like to see a balanced approach between motorized and nonmotorized use, with the understanding that nonmotorized use is the predominant use in the Pike and San Isabel National Forests," he said.

Even with the closure of the contested routes, Gallensky said there is potential for creating a sustainable trail system within the forest.

Everybody has a stake in the issue, said Sobal. A travel management plan tends to be the most controversial thing an agency can do.

A trail system created through the public process will result in a more sustainable network, said Gallensky.



JOE STONE

From left, Salidans Mitchell Tanner, Alan Mueller and Brooke Beasley of Collegiate Rok Skool perform as BAM Saturday, Oct. 22, at The Lariat. Opening for Salida Din, BAM played several soft rock classics plus "Spirits" by The Strumbrellas and "Roll the Dice," an original BAM composition.

Salida Din

Continued from page 20

But even before Salida Din took the stage Saturday, music fans got a taste of just how deep the local talent pool is when Rok Skool band BAM opened the show.

Salida teens Brooke Beasley, Alan Mueller and Mitchell Tanner performed a wonderful set weighted toward classic rock with tunes by Neil Young, Pure Prairie League, Tracy Chapman and The Strumbrellas.

The BAM highlight of the night was the trio's performance of "Roll the Dice," an original composition by the band members.

The three musicians switched instruments frequently and seamlessly

throughout the set and graciously accepted an enthusiastic response to their performance.

These kids have the talent to go places, and it's no coincidence they opened for Salida Din. As students of Rok Skool, Brooke, Alan and Mitchell study under the tutelage of Bones, who has helped a number of local youth develop their musical talents.

Finally, any review of Saturday's performance would be remiss in not mentioning the venue itself.

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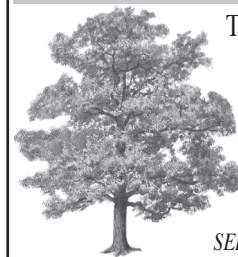
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