



What's Threatening Wetlands in Telluride?



Scope of Project

The Telluride Hospital District wants to build a medical center, which would result in impacts to 0.44 acre of wetland on the site. The Army Corps of Engineers is still reviewing their application for a permit. The permit includes a detailed wetland mitigation plan that creates 0.74 acre of wetland areas within the town to replace the 0.44 acre of filled wetland for the new medical center.

Problems with Newly Created Wetlands

Natural wetlands take hundreds of years to evolve into a productive wetland with native plants, invertebrates, fish, birds, etc. Creating a new wetland in exchange for destroying a natural one will take generations for it to be productively equivalent. In this case even though we are getting 0.74 acre of wetland for 0.44 acre of filled wetland, the risk is not worth the reward.

Alternatives to the Site

Alternate sites in Lawson Hill and Mountain Village were listed under consideration, but several objections are raised to their practicability by the Telluride Hospital District, including their distance from public transportation and their cost. The preferred site was offered to Telluride Hospital District free of charge by Mountain Village.

What You Can Do

Send an email to Carrie Sheata, the project manager, at Carrie.A.Sheata@usace.army.mil to not support the construction of the medical center at the proposed location.



For more information visit www.surfersforwetlands.org



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