

To: Scott Fitzwilliams, Forest Supervisor, c/o Matt Grove, Project Leader  
From: C. Sherwood & Bob Egan

Subj: Comments on Camp Hale Restoration and Enhancement Project

Scott, Matt,

We were members of the Camp Hale Collaborative.

CONCERN:

The area "FD3" (the so called "Gravel Pit" area) should NOT be designated for potential use as a "Fill Disposal Area", as it is on figures 1 and 3 of the NOPA.

Using this area as a Fill Disposal Area would be counter to the Camp Hale Master Plan. The Plan included the future possibility for reinstatement of the Gravel Pit for OHV use. If the Pit is filled in, this potential future use is lost.

The Plan recognizes that a continued increase in recreational use in the Valley is likely; in the future, the Gravel Pit feature may become an important part of the recreational opportunities in the Valley.

While this recommendation was not supported by all members of the Camp Hale Collaborative, actions taken should not preclude this future option for expansion of the recreational opportunities in the Valley.

SUPPORTING REASONS:

The Camp Hale Master Plan recognizes that both commercial and non commercial motorized recreation, including OHVs, are existing land uses in the valley.

With regards to Recreation Opportunities, the Plan states:

"The Camp Hale-Eagle River Headwaters Collaborative Group wishes to maintain and improve all existing summer and winter recreational opportunities in the Camp Hale and Eagle River headwaters area. With an ever expanding user base, current public recreational infrastructure and facilities are quickly becoming outdated and overused."

"The Group recognizes that there exists significant commercial and non-commercial winter and summer motorized use of the adjacent National Forest lands using over-snow, on-highway and off-highway vehicles."

The Plan recommends that: "...family-oriented motorized recreation opportunities be expanded in the valley floor. The goal is to keep juvenile motorized traffic off of the Transportation System, and to keep the impact of valley floor motorized use

localized, while maintaining aquatic, wetland, terrestrial, and historic values. Options include ... reinstating motorized use of the existing Gravel Pit, north of the railroad right-of-way, including a potential access trail from the valley floor." The plan then states that: "Implementation of these features should not necessarily be linked to implementation of other features in the valley floor recommended by this Master Plan."

This recommendation of expanded motorized use in the Valley did not receive unanimous approval by all members of the Collaborative, due to environmental concerns. However the potential for expanded use in the future should not be precluded by present actions, as would happen if the present Gravel Pit is identified as a Fill Disposal Area.

Respectfully,

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