



Park County
Department of Heritage, Tourism & Community
Development
PO Box 1373
Fairplay CO 80440

**Lake George Area Vegetation Management Project Scoping
Response**

July 19, 2017

Dear Responsible Official,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the Lake George Vegetation Management Project. In reviewing the scoping letter and specified project areas the Park County Office of Heritage, Tourism and Community Development supports the goals of landscape restoration that will help address the growing issues of wildfire and insect-disease outbreaks, return the areas to a more natural fire regime, and help protect our watersheds. However, our department does want to ensure that the Forest Service is aware of cultural resources within the boundaries of the project areas. Particularly, areas along County Road 77/Tarryall Road contain a wide range of cultural resources significant to the area's history.

This important area includes resources that are individually eligible to the National Register, listed on Local, State, and National Registers, or are contributing to historic district(s). Project areas north of Highway 24 in the Tarryall area include resources such as the Sidney Derby Ranch (5PA.794), Derby Residence (5PA.800), and Resource 5PA.801. In addition, there is the Tarryall School (5PA.407), Allen Creek Ranch (5PA.306), and the Williams Ranch (5PA.793) which are designated as Local Landmarks.

The section north of Lake George, also along the Tarryall corridor, included the Lake George Cemetery (5PA.382), an open lithic site (5PA.3907) Warling Ranch (5PA.815), the Payne Homestead (5PA.743), and a related site on the property (5PA.3440).

My position also serves as staff for the Park County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission. One of our very knowledgeable members, Mr. Jerry Davis, wanted me to make you aware of other potential resource within the project areas that may not be formally documented and are perhaps less clearly defined on the landscape. Although less obvious there may be "readable" history present in former cutover areas. Mr. Davis notes, "there are some cultural details worth protecting that can easily be overlooked out among old logging areas. Witness or bearing trees (dead or alive) that are tied to land survey, Forest Homestead, and mineral corners should always be preserved. I feel the same about old ramps used to load logs onto wagons/trucks. One can sometimes ID tie cutting by virtue of fairly small, down trees that feature tie-length gaps, with the hewing extending a few inches beyond the ties' end cuts. Old slash like that is a target when it comes to fuel reduction, but it may be well to preserve at least a little evidence of tie cutting, or at least record that it was there. And saving "medicine" trees (dead or alive) goes without saying. Old brush fences would be another fuel-reduction target, but they also have a story to tell that's worth recording, if not saving at least some of the physical evidence." Furthermore, bootlegging operations were prevalent in the areas and may be marked by accumulations of barrel hoops/and or staves. A reported site is supposed to be located near the W property line close to the SW corner of the Webber Park subdivision, although this has not been confirmed.

We understand that not all such subtle cultural resources such as the bearing trees, homestead and mineral corners, timber ramps, brush fences, and bootlegging stills may not be able to be preserved, but we ask that they

be properly documented if encountered. Although not the most obvious of resources, they provide strong evidence of how the landscape was used in the past and help tell the story of Park County. But we also recognize the importance the proposed work for the welfare of the forests, water, and surrounding communities, as well as in helping protect the more substantial cultural resources that have been documented and evaluated from the threat of fire.

If any additional historic properties are identified during future undertakings, the office requests to be notified. If there is any other assistance our office can provide please feel free to contact me.

Thank you again for you letter.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason O'Brien". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Jason O'Brien
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