



July 6, 2020

Kara Chadwick, Forest Supervisor,
c/o Noel Ludwig,
P.O. Box 439
Bayfield, CO 81122

Re: Ice Creek Parking Project

Dear Mr. Ludwig:

Please accept this correspondence as the comments of serious concern on behalf of the Trails Preservation Alliance ("TPA"), Colorado Snowmobile Association ("CSA") and the Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition ("COHVCO") regarding the Ice Creek Parking area revisions ("The Proposal"). The Organizations and local clubs have been involved in long term discussions with the USFS on expanding multiple use access to the area and at no point has the current proposal been mentioned as an alternative for the area.

Prior to addressing our specific concerns on the Proposal, the Organizations believe a brief summary of each Organization is necessary to provide context to the comments. The TPA is a volunteer organization created to be a viable partner to public lands managers, working with the USFS and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to preserve the sport of trail riding and multi-use recreation. The TPA acts as an advocate for the sport and takes the necessary action to insure that the USFS and BLM allocate a fair and equitable percentage of public lands access to diverse multi-use recreational opportunities. COHVCO is a grassroots advocacy organization representing approximately 150,000 registered off-highway vehicle ("OHV") users in Colorado seeking to represent, assist, educate, and empower all OHV recreationists in the protection and promotion of multi-use and off-highway motorized recreation throughout Colorado. COHVCO is an environmental organization that advocates and promotes the responsible use and conservation of our public lands and natural resources to preserve their aesthetic and recreational qualities for future generations. Colorado Snowmobile Association ("CSA") was founded in 1970 to unite winter motorized recreationists across the state to enjoy their passion. CSA has become the voice of the more than 30,000 registered snowmobile users and the state and is the organized snowmobiling seeking to advance, promote and preserve the sport of snowmobiling by working with Federal and state land management agencies and local, state and federal legislators. TPA, CSA and COHVCO are referred to collectively in this correspondence as "The Organizations."

The Organizations are very concerned about the communication on this project especially after the planning area was recently awarded a \$130,000 grant from the CPW winter capital trails fund. The Organizations are aware that the Barlow/Ice Creek area has been an area that has seen expanded usage and exceptionally limited parking for both summer and winter recreationalists. That grant application is attached. The Organizations saw this project as a unique opportunity for the summer and winter recreational communities to come together with the USFS and improve recreational opportunities in the area. Obviously funding improvements with public funds for the benefit of a private for profit business is problematic to say the least.

The Barlow/Ice Creek project was one of the few projects that was adopted for the benefit of the winter and summer motorized recreational community in the San Juan NF RMP that was finalized. Again the adoption of the project in the new RMP and then significant change in direction significantly is a problem for our users.

The Organizations are also aware of significant concern being raised around possible lynx habitat in the area. Under the 2013 LCAS, which was addressed in detail in our previous discussions with the USFS lynx issues were also raised and significantly impacted the decision to continue to use the area for lower intensity dispersed recreational opportunities rather than a more intensive ski area type usage.

The Organizations would welcome a discussion of these opportunities and any other challenges that might be facing the Ice Creek Parking area moving forward at your convenience. Please feel free to contact Don Riggle at 725 Palomar Lane, Colorado Springs, 80906, Cell (719) 338- 4106 or Scott Jones, Esq. at 508 Ashford Drive, Longmont, CO 80504. His phone is (518)281-5810 and his email is scott.jones46@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,



Scott Jones, Esq.
TPA Authorized Representative
CSA/COHVCO President



D.E. Riggle, Director of Operations
Trail Preservation Alliance