

In 2017, discussions about decommissioning the trails in Wildcat Canyon began and Voorhis got a \$15k grant from the South Platte Enhancement Board to begin work.

From: Voorhis, Josh -FS
Sent: 24 Jul 2017 15:11:56 +0000
To: Banks, Brian -FS;Martinez, Oscar -FS
Cc: Hyatt, Jeff -FS;Meyer, Kristen E -FS;Painter, Mikele -FS;Dollus, Scott -FS
Subject: SPEB Grant - Wildcat Canyon

As I am sure Mikele already let most folks know, we did receive the full amount of \$15,000 for materials for work in Wildcat Canyon. Kristen and I will continue to work with the SPEB board to determine when we have the authority to spend the money. The idea is that we will just provide them with a list of material which they will purchase and then we will pick up or have delivered to one of our boneyards. Start thinking about what are the best items for purchase.

Thanks

Josh

Joshua Voorhis
District Ranger
Forest Service
South Park Ranger District,
Pike/San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron/Comanche National Grasslands

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In May 2018, Voorhis launched a project to decommission the roads with a letter of expectations memo. He proceeded with this project over the objections

of several other FS employees.

From: Voorhis, Josh -FS
Sent: 7 May 2018 22:22:07 +0000
To: Hessler, Mike -FS;Hyatt, Jeff -FS;Lamb, Sheila -FS;Meyer, Kristen E -FS;Banks, Brian -FS;Martinez, Oscar -FS;Statezny, James P -FS;Shipstead, Leah - FS;Woods, Caitlin - FS;Bell, Julie - FS;Dollus, Scott -FS;Painter, Mikele -FS;Bergmanis, Colleen - FS;DeWoody, Jennifer A -FS
Cc: Titterington, Amy J -FS;Prout, Janine - FS;Newton, Torie L -FS;Cadenhead, Andrew - FS;Lara, Ben -FS;Condit, David - FS;Oliver, Chuck -FS
Subject: Wildcat Canyon Expectations
Attachments: Wildcat Canyon Expectations.docm

Attached is a letter of expectations for moving forward with Wildcat Canyon. As we are all aware, Wildcat Canyon has been a continual problem for the Pike for many years. This letter is to express our leadership intent for the Canyon. Please thoroughly review the attached letter.

There is high hope that funding will be available if we can create a contract package for addressing the issues within the Canyon. Brian and I will work on that end of it, but we need a well thought out plan ready for contracting if we want to move forward. The letter details your potential role in the project planning. Scott Dollus will be the project lead. If you have any thoughts or concerns, please contact him. Work on this project will need to start immediately in order to meet the aggressive deadlines.

Thanks

Josh

Joshua Voorhis
District Ranger

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South Park Ranger District
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South Platte Ranger District
19316 Goddard Ranch Ct.
Morrison, CO 80465

File Code: 2300
Route To:

Date: May 7, 2018

Subject: Wildcat Canyon Project Initiation and Expectations

To: South Platte & South Park Ranger District Employees

Background:

Wildcat Canyon has been highly contentious for many reasons over the past several years. The South Platte River, Colorado's Front Range major water supply, flows through Wildcat Canyon. The currently closed road system previously provided legal motorized recreational value and now non-motorized value to many individuals over the years. Besides the wide array of recreational opportunities, the Canyon provides habitat for unique and sensitive wildlife and fisheries resources as well as high quality scenic value. These are only a few of the exceptional resources that Wildcat Canyon has to offer.

The entire Pike National Forest is impacted by the activities occurring in the canyon. The canyon is located on both the South Platte and South Park Ranger Districts and the Pikes Peak District provides the main access into this area.

On June 21, 2004, the PSICC adopted Forest Plan Amendment 31 to protect segments of the South Platte River and North Fork of the South Platte River that were determined eligible for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This amendment to the Forest Plan protects these segments from activities which could diminish or change the values which make the rivers eligible for designation. Under this amendment, Wildcat Canyon (identified as Segment C is classified as "Scenic" with Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) in Scenery, Geology, Fisheries, and Wildlife (as described in the 2003 South Platte Protection Plan, Attachment A). Recreation was not included in Segment C as an ORV.

Wildcat Canyon was closed to motorized vehicles following the 2004 Hayman Roads Decision. In separate decision notices, the South Platte and South Park district rangers (Randy Hickenbottom and Sara Mayben) closed roads to Wildcat Canyon (i.e., FSR 205-Metberry, 220-Hackett, 220.A-Crossover, 220.B-Widow Maker, 221-Longwater, and 540-Corral Creek). These decisions allowed for the roads to be reopened only if a written easement, agreement, or special use permit is entered into by a public road management agency. As part of the decisions, road easements would be considered with respect to individual roads, providing that each easement, agreement, or permit contains an agreed maintenance standard for that road (September 9, 2004). Teller and Jefferson Counties did apply and received road easements. Park County initially did apply but has since withdrawn their easement request.

Issues have been arising within the area as road closures have been difficult to enforce in this



remote location. The canyon has been illegally re-opened in the past few years and resource damage is occurring. As Park County has withdrawn their request and due to the resource damage actively occurring, the Districts need to take action and fully implement the Hayman Roads Decision.

Action:

The South Park and South Platte District Rangers have agreed to coordinate our actions within the Canyon to implement a full closure. Scott Dollus, Recreation Manager on the South Platte District, will be the team lead for this project.

The objective is to develop a plan for the Canyon that is fully ready to hand over to a contractor to implement in 2019. This plan would address the needs for comprehensive management of this area and would include viable options for all of the closed roads. This plan would include items such as:

- GPS locations and a written description of vehicle barriers such as boulders and post and cable.
- GPS locations and a written description of any needed signage or kiosks.
- GPS locations and a written description to remove all of the existing signs and post and cable currently within the Canyon.
- GPS locations and written plans for areas where full road obliteration and re-contouring are required for ecological or closure purposes.

The plan will need to be fully ready for submission to contracting on December 1, 2018. Therefore, this plan will need to be extremely detailed, with maps, GPS locations, lengths of barriers, etc. and will need to be submitted to the district rangers no later than October 31, 2018 for final review.

A second product that will be provided to the district rangers on October 31, 2018 will be a comprehensive summary of any NEPA necessary to be completed prior to the contract submission. At this time, we expect that all necessary closure work can be completed through the use of Categorical Exclusions. In order for the districts to complete any necessary NEPA during the winter of 2019, all field surveys for wildlife, archaeology or any others will need to be completed prior to October 31, 2018. It is critical that specialists actively work with Scott to ensure this work is completed.

In order to keep this project moving along throughout the summer season, we will require Scott Dollus to provide monthly updates to the district rangers. These updates will include a progress report and a list of items that need attention. Scott will also be expected to have regular meetings with the involved participants to ensure progress is continuing. Early plans and GPS data will be important for specialists to carry out their surveys within the 2018 field season.

Not all employees will be needed for this project. However, if you are needed for this project we fully expect that you will make yourselves available to complete this project. Failure to complete this work within this schedule is not acceptable.

Full Team Members:

South Park District:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Kristen Meyer | Wildlife and Fisheries Biologist |
| 2. Jeff Hyatt | Recreation Specialist |

South Platte District:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Mikele Painter | Wildlife and Fisheries Biologist |
| 2. Scott Dollus | Project Lead |
| 3. Julie Bell | Archaeologist |

Other Resources Required:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Jamie Statezny | Forest Roads Engineer |
| 2. Cait Woods | Roads Engineer |
| 3. Leah Shipstead | Hydrologist |

This is an important project for the Pike National Forest. Wildcat Canyon has been a significant cause of concern for the public and for all of us for well over 15 years. Especially as concerns grow for the public and Forest, we need to work together to define a permanent solution to these issues.



JOSH VOORHIS
District Ranger

BRIAN BANKS
District Ranger



cc: PSICC Supervisors Office

From: Voorhis, Josh -FS
Sent: 7 May 2018 19:47:22 +0000
To: DeWoody, Jennifer A -FS;Hyatt, Jeff -FS
Subject: Wildcat Briefing Paper
Attachments: Wildcat Canyon- briefing paper 04262018.doc

This might help with a few questions on your hike this Saturday with Wild Connections.

Thanks

Josh

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U.S. Forest Service Pike & San Isabel National Forests Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands Briefing Paper

Date: April 26, 2018

Topic: Wildcat Canyon – Forest Service is planning to fully implement the Decision Notice from the Hayman Roads Environmental Assessment of 2004.

Issue: Illegal motorized use of Wildcat Canyon has increased dramatically in the past two years. Due to this rise in illegal use and the resource impacts that are occurring, the Forest Service has initiated a process to fully implement the Decision Notice from the Hayman Roads Environmental Assessment of 2004. The Forest Service will develop a plan to prevent illegal use of this Canyon in 2018 with on the ground work to follow.

Motorized groups desire an extension of the current access to the area, while Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Forest Biologists, and other partners and conservation groups opposed the extensions due to impacts to threatened and endangered species, fish habitat, and the wild and scenic values of the area. Additionally, the Forest Plan and other NEPA documents do not support the concept of additional roads within the Canyon.

Key Points:

- In separate decision notices, the South Platte and South Park district rangers (Randy Hickenbottom and Sara Mayben) closed roads to Wildcat Canyon (i.e., FSR 205-Metberry, 220-Hackett, 220.A-Crossover, 220.B-Widow Maker, 221-Longwater, and 540-Corral Creek), but allowed for the roads to be reopened only if a written easement, agreement, or special use permit is entered into with a public road management agency with respect to each road, and such easement, agreement, or permit contains an agreed maintenance standard for each road (September 9, 2004). Park County has withdrawn their easement request and is no longer interested in acquiring these roads.
- On June 21, 2004, the PSICC adopted Forest Plan Amendment 31 to protect segments of the South Platte River and North Fork of the South Platte River determined eligible for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System from activities which could diminish or change the values which make the rivers eligible for designation. Under this amendment, Wildcat Canyon is classified as “Scenic” with Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) in Scenery, Geology, Fisheries, and Wildlife (as described in the 2003 South Platte Protection Plan, Attachment A).
- In 1998, the State included the segment of South Platte River from Elevenmile Canyon to Cheesman Reservoir on its 303(d) list for non-attainment of cold water aquatic life use due to deposition of excessive quantities of sediment (WQCD 2002). Long before the Hayman Fire, roads next to and crossing the South Platte River at Wildcat Canyon were contributing to sediment loads in the river.
- The riparian and upland vegetation in and around Wildcat Canyon provides suitable habitat for two federally listed species, the Preble’s meadow jumping mouse and Pawnee montane skipper (a butterfly). The butterfly is now known to have re-colonized Wildcat Canyon.

Interested parties: Park County; Coalition for the Upper South Platte; Forest Service, Motorized and OHV proponents, such as Predator; South Platte Enhancement Board; quiet use and roadless area proponents, including Quiet Use Coalition and Wild Connections; state organizations, such as Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Wildlife Division and Colorado Parks and Wildlife OHV Division; and Denver Water.

Recommendation: For information only.

Contact: Josh Voorhis, District Ranger, South Park Ranger District, 719-836-2031 and Brian Banks, District Ranger South Platte Ranger District, 303-275-5612

Forest Service employee Gary Morrison objects to this plan.

To: Statezny, James P -FS <jstatezny@fs.fed.us>

Cc: Woods, Caitlin - FS <caitlinwoods@fs.fed.us>; Davilman, Lacie - FS <ldavilman@fs.fed.us>; Cadenhead, Andrew - FS <acadenhead@fs.fed.us>; Dow, John R - FS <jrdow@fs.fed.us>

Subject: RE: Wildcat Canyon Expectations

Jamie,

I've taken a look at the Wildcat Canyon project initiation and expectations letter and my initial reaction is that this project and action plan has a very low chance of success for a variety of reasons. The background information is incomplete, and the action plan is flawed and will likely lead to further resource damage and continued unenforceable illegal motorized activity. The action plan expectation of using categorical exclusion(s) also seems to be intended on minimizing public input, even after pointing out in the first paragraph of the letter that this area is highly contentious and is located in a municipal watershed. Clearly, extraordinary circumstances exist that should warrant analysis and documentation in an EA or an EIS. In addition to the presence of extraordinary circumstances, the proposed action of decommissioning existing NFSRs does not fall within any of the categories listed in 36 CFR 220.6 (d) and (e), which disqualifies this action from the use of a categorical exclusion. Specifically, 36 CFR 220.6(e)(20) makes it clear that decommissioning National Forest System roads does not qualify for the use of a categorical exclusion. The use of any other category of approved categorical exclusions to decommission NFSRs would in my opinion be an abuse of the Council of Environmental Quality regulations.

The background information in the letter left out some important and relevant details as follows:

- Prior to the Hayman fire, the extreme 4-wheel drive clubs enjoyed recreating in wildcat canyon for decades, and they have shown an eager willingness to be involved in the ongoing planning, maintenance and management of these routes.
- The South Park/South Platte Ranger Districts failed to act on the requests from Park County in 2010 and again in 2014 to grant easements for all the wildcat canyon road segments within Park County. The motorized recreation community saw this failure as an intentional attempt by some forest service employees to try to permanently eliminate motorized recreation in wildcat canyon. As a result, trust in the forest service was lost, and many extreme 4WD user groups no longer are willing to cooperate with the motorized prohibitions in the canyon. Attached is the 2014 Park County Request letter and application for easements for your review.
- As recently as November, 2013, the forest service (South Platte RD) indicated an expectation for the Park County road segments in wildcat canyon to be re-opened as county roads, and state OHV funds were requested for essential maintenance work in the canyon. Evidently, there are some in the forest service that believe these roads can and should be reopened, and there are others that don't seem to want it to happen. This issue is controversial even within the forest service and needs to be resolved by analyzing various alternatives in an EA or EIS, with opportunities for public input throughout that process.
- There is no official documentation in the project record from Park County to support the claim mentioned in the expectations letter that Park County ever

withdrew their easement requests. Without that documentation, this claim is unsubstantiated and should not be used as a valid excuse for not providing easements to the county. Maybe an update letter from the county is needed before making assumptions on their current official stance. Or maybe the county is still waiting on the FS to grant the easements, and if that is the case, we should proceed to prepare the easement documents and get them signed per the decision in the Hayman EA/FONSI.

- There is nothing in the Wild and Scenic River Act that prohibits or even discourages motorized uses, so the implication in the letter that motorized recreation is incompatible with a Scenic designation is not correct.

Overall, this action plan will likely result in a further deterioration of the little trust that is left between the motorized recreation groups and the Forest Service. If public/private partnerships is an important part of the forest service strategy, maybe a good next step would be to respond to the public EIS scoping comments and include the potential reopening of the wildcat canyon roads in Park county in the ongoing MVUM EIS analysis. This strategy offers the best chance of success for protecting the resources in Wildcat canyon, and this is what John and I have done as of now. Keep in mind that since Erin has already approved the Alternatives as is, her input and approval will be necessary for any changes to Alternative D.

There are possibilities for improving/building environmentally friendly extreme full size motorized trails on both sides of the river to meet some of the expectations of this user group, preferably under county jurisdiction, and with the user group's cooperation, maybe the bulk of the work and management could be given over to them, similar to what Teller county has already done. But this will never happen if the forest service tries to slip through a categorical exclusion to decommission these existing ML1 NFSRs. I am opposed to the action plan as described in this expectations letter, and I am in favor of either proceeding with granting easements to Park County if they still want easements or continuing with the NEPA analysis of these routes as spelled out in Alternative D of the MVUM EIS.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Gary

P.S. The conversion of these roads to motorized trails was requested by the public during the EIS scoping comment period. Therefore, we have a responsibility to address those comments, and by including these trail options in Alternative D of the MVUM EIS, we are responding to those public comments. I believe that the right thing to do is to analyze these routes via the NEPA analysis process and let the deciding official make a fully informed decision. Anything less than this will invite public criticism and the possibility of a lawsuit.

From: Statezny, James P -FS
Sent: Wednesday, May 9, 2018 4:06 PM
To: Woods, Caitlin - FS <caitlinwoods@fs.fed.us>
Subject: Re: Wildcat Canyon Expectations

We'll have to make sure we're in every step of this transportation planning or it's going to get messed up. Josh says he thinks all decommissioning can be done with CE's....that may or may not be true and it's up to our expertise to ensure we steer the Rangers the right way.

We may need you, me, & Gary on this one.

Jamie Statezny

From: Woods, Caitlin - FS
Sent: 9 May 2018 22:20:54 +0000
To: Statezny, James P -FS
Subject: RE: Wildcat Canyon Expectations

I've already told them that they can't decommission roads with a CE. They say they are admin roads so they are already closed. I told them admin are still system. It's impossible to get a straight answer. I have my doubts that it's CE territory, however maybe under the Hayman stuff they are already closed.

It will be a mess, but I agree they will need help and guidance. I just want to make sure they don't dump writing and admin of the contract on engineering since we do it so often. We don't have the people to do it for them right now.

From: Statezny, James P -FS
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 4:14 PM
To: Woods, Caitlin - FS <caitlinwoods@fs.fed.us>; Morrison, Gary -FS <garymorrison@fs.fed.us>
Subject: FW: Wildcat Canyon Expectations

Doesn't sound like much ML1 Storm Proofing to me. This is definitely a decommissioning project.



Jamie Statezny
Region 2 Transportation O&M Engineer

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From: Dollus, Scott -FS
Sent: 5 Jun 2018 19:33:06 +0000
To: Statezny, James P -FS;Hyatt, Jeff -FS;Meyer, Kristen E -FS;Shipstead, Leah -FS;Woods, Caitlin - FS;Bell, Julie - FS;Painter, Mikele -FS
Cc: Voorhis, Josh -FS;Banks, Brian -FS;Martinez, Oscar -FS;Painter, Mikele -FS
Subject: RE: Wildcat Canyon Expectations

Yes Jamie, that would probably be a good idea. I think I can speak for all of us that getting all of us together for another meeting at this time of the year will be very difficult. Maybe a vtc would be more appropriate. I'll set something up. Having said that I can do a better job of keeping everyone updated.

Two Fridays ago Brian and I spent a day on the west side of the river. We gathered some pretty detailed data (GPS) on how much infrastructure we will need to remove, miles of decommissioning, etc. This was primarily post and cable, signage, and the corral creek road. I'm in the process of getting this incorporated into a map and summarized.

The east side of the river is going to be a bit more complicated. For this next planning effort I would like to get a few more of us involved for input. Let's tentatively shoot for Wednesday June 20th and see if we can get a decent turnout. I'll send out an invite. Thanks



Scott Dollus
Recreation Planner
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From: Banks, Brian -FS
Sent: 20 Sep 2018 20:07:45 +0000
To: Voorhis, Josh -FS;Dollus, Scott -FS
Subject: RE: Wildcat Canyon

Scott is on AL the rest of the week. We will talk and get back to you. I know he is working on an order for 4.5 inch steel and fabrication for barriers.



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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Voorhis, Josh -FS
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 3:21 PM
To: Dollus, Scott -FS <sdollus@fs.fed.us>
Cc: Banks, Brian -FS <bbanks@fs.fed.us>
Subject: Wildcat Canyon

What do we need to do for Wildcat Canyon? I suspect South Park is slowing the train as we are absent a recreation program. Please let me know what the next steps are? Thanks

Josh



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From: Elder, Nathan P. [mailto:Nathan.Elder@denverwater.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2019 8:22 AM
To: Dollus, Scott -FS <sdollus@fs.fed.us>
Subject: RE: wildcat

Thanks Scott. When you are ready, send me an invoice and the contractor information to where the check should be sent.

From: Dollus, Scott -FS <sdollus@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 3:06 PM
To: Elder, Nathan P. <Nathan.Elder@denverwater.org>
Subject: wildcat

Hi Nathan, I will be working with you on the wildcat canyon project. At this time I have gotten some estimates on supplies and materials I think we will need to stop traffic at the Park / Teller county line. I just wanted to introduce myself and will be in touch on how best to proceed as we start to purchase. Take care Scott



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From: Banks, Brian -FS
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 4:27 PM
To: Voorhis, Josh -FS <josh.voorhis@usda.gov>
Cc: Painter, Mikele -FS <mikele.painter@usda.gov>; Meyer, Kristen E -FS <kristen.meyer@usda.gov>
Subject: SPEB Grant application

Hey Josh,

Was wondering if you tasked Kristen with submitting SPEB proposal for Wildcat contract work? Let me know, I think the deadline is next week. If not I think I can con Mikele into submitting something.

Thanks



Brian Banks
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Painter, Mikele -FS
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 5:03 PM
To: Meyer, Kristen E -FS <kristen.meyer@usda.gov>; Banks, Brian -FS <brian.banks@usda.gov>; Voorhis, Josh -FS <josh.voorhis@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: SPEB Grant application

We got funding from SPEB last year just for purchase of materials. I don't think we clearly understood until now that we needed to apply for a second grant to put towards a contract for the deconstruction/construction work. If I get the details maybe I can start the grant proposal tomorrow.

Mikele Painter, Biologist
South Platte District, Pike NF
Conifer, CO, ph: 303-275-5614
mpainter@fs.fed.us (2018)
mikele.painter@usda.gov (2019)

From: Meyer, Kristen E -FS
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 4:53 PM
To: Banks, Brian -FS <brian.banks@usda.gov>; Voorhis, Josh -FS <josh.voorhis@usda.gov>
Cc: Painter, Mikele -FS <mikele.painter@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: SPEB Grant application

Hi Brian,

I was not aware of this, but maybe I dropped the ball. It is possible that Josh and I discussed it, but I may need his help in remembering. I thought we already had the funds from somewhere, because I feel like I asked about it a bit ago. I will touch bases with Josh tomorrow to see.

Unfortunately, I may not be able to do this before the deadline unless I bail on First Aid/CPR training on Wednesday.

Thanks for touching bases with us!
Kristen ☺

From: Morrison, Gary -FS
Sent: 9 Jul 2019 14:08:15 +0000
To: Statezny, James P -FS
Subject: RE: Wildcat Canyon Expectations

Hi Jamie,

I talked with Bill Alspach yesterday and he asked me about the status of the Wildcat Canyon roads. It was his understanding that Josh and Brian went ahead and issued some type of amendment to the Hayman FONSI and/or a new NEPA document so that they could decommission the Wildcat roads. He has been told that it is a done deal. Have you seen such a document? I've looked on our website but I don't see anything like that. Let me know what you know. Thanks.



Gary Morrison, P.E.
Engineer/Transportation Planner

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From: Banks, Brian -FS
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2019 2:04 PM
To: Woods, Caitlin - FS <caitlin.woods@usda.gov>; Dollus, Scott -FS <scott.dollus@usda.gov>
Cc: Statezny, James P -FS <james.statezny@usda.gov>; Morrison, Gary -FS <gary.morrison@usda.gov>; Voorhis, Josh -FS <josh.voorhis@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Wildcat Canyon project

Hey Cait,

Scott is out today. We purchased metal barriers to close the eastern routes at the county line and were just awarded a SPEB grant for 20K to install those barriers. We are still in need of funding, or possibly operator time, to pull the signage and post and cable out of the riparian and re-contour Coral Creek on the west side. We have a field trip scheduled for next Wednesday to show SPEB members the implementation plan, you are welcome to join us.



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From: Woods, Caitlin - FS
Sent: 11 Jul 2019 22:31:43 +0000
To: Statezny, James P -FS;Morrison, Gary -FS
Cc: Davilman, Lacie - FS
Subject: RE: Wildcat Canyon project

Also I should add that the District(s) haven't moved forward with any installation or physical closure of the routes yet that I'm aware of. Scott has purchased metal rails for fencing and stockpiled them while waiting for implementation to occur.

I really think this is one of those issues that needs a group discussion, even if it's just a brief conference call, so that everyone involved is on the same page and we minimize miscommunications and stress.

Jamie – I know it's probably technically Scott's responsibility, but maybe it's time for engineering to initiate a brief conference call with Josh Voorhis, Brian Banks, Scott Dollus, and any other major players so we're all in the loop rather than us continuing to have one-on-one conversations. Do you think that'd work or am I out of line?

Thanks, Cait

From: Morrison, Gary -FS
Sent: 11 Jul 2019 14:04:53 +0000
To: Statezny, James P -FS
Cc: Davilman, Lacie - FS
Subject: FW: Wildcat Canyon project

Jamie,

This is the kind of situation that makes me want to retire yesterday. The South Platte and South Park RDs have evidently made a unilateral decision to move forward in decommissioning these roads and they haven't adequately involved Engineering or the motorized community in that process. Where is this project in SOPA, and where is the NEPA? I'm embarrassed and ashamed when the public comes to me about a volatile and hot topic such as this and tells me things that I am completely unaware of. The motorized community is outraged that the district is decommissioning these roads without adequately addressing concerns from Park County, from the public and my own concerns that I have expressed in the past (see my emails dated 5/30/2018 and 7/20/2017) . If our leadership wants to know why the motorized community does not want to cooperate with the forest service, this is a great example of why they don't trust us. I don't blame them for their outrage.

I've looked in Pinyon and on our website for any information concerning Wildcat Canyon and have found nothing. Where is the NEPA analysis and the signed NEPA document? Where is the project folder? Why isn't there anything on our website about this project for the public to see? Why did they move forward with this project without involving the engineering shop?

I'd like some answers to these questions so that I can convey adequate information to the public when asked. Please let me know what you find out, and if possible, provide me with a public link on our website that I can point people to. Thanks.



Gary Morrison, P.E.
Engineer/Transportation Planner

Forest Service
Pike/San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron/Comanche National Grasslands

p: 719-477-4211

gary.morrison@usda.gov

601 South Weber Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

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Caring for the land and serving people

FS employee Gary Morrison protests the decision to decommission the Wildcat Canyon roads with no public input.

From: Statezny, James P -FS
Sent: 12 Jul 2019 23:39:10 +0000
To: Banks, Brian -FS;Voorhis, Josh -FS
Cc: Morrison, Gary -FS;Woods, Caitlin - FS
Subject: RE: Wildcat Canyon project

I can make that day and will plan on attending. Brian, can you tell me the time and (exact) location to meet?

When Josh sent out his Expectation Letter last year it was the first time that Cait, Gary, & I heard about the project since I sent Andy some comments from Gary the year before. I asked Andy for direction on how our group should support the Expectation Letter and Andy told me that he had been in conversations for 9 months and didn't see the need for our group to understand the direction given. Months went by again without any information and eventually he left. Then the winter, furlough, spring, etc came. That said, the 3 of us are confused as to what is exactly going on so hopefully hearing the implementation plan will help us get caught up.

Thanks,

Jamie



Jamie Statezny
Assistant Forest Engineer
Transportation Program Manager
Forest Service
Pike & San Isabel National Forests
Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands

From: Misi Ballard (b)(6)
Sent: Sunday, August 11, 2019 11:37 AM
To: Dollus, Scott -FS <scott.dollus@usda.gov>
Cc: Voorhis, Josh -FS <josh.voorhis@usda.gov>; Banks, Brian -FS <brian.banks@usda.gov>
Subject: Wildcat Canyon plans & fundraising

Hi, Scott,

I am currently working on Wild Connections grants for next year and wonder if you can share any information on plans for Wildcat. If there is any chance we can be involved in boots-on-the-ground work next year in Wildcat, we would love to start fundraising for it now, but obviously need more information.

Thank you so much, Scott.

Misi

Misi
N.
Ballard
Board Member
Wild Connections
www.wildconnections.org
(b)(6)

In an email to Misi Ballard of Wild Connections, Voorhis lays out the three parts of his decommissioning plan and enlists Wild Connections' help in fundraising for it.

From: Voorhis, Josh -FS
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 2:30 PM
To: Misi Ballard <misi.ballard@gmail.com>; Dollus, Scott -FS <scott.dollus@usda.gov>
Cc: Banks, Brian -FS <brian.banks@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Wildcat Canyon plans & fundraising

We are hoping to have multiple projects going next year in Wildcat. One would be the closures on the east side, as we have four locations that will need to be closed. We also have the post and cable and sign removal on the west side. I know we will need funds for both of these projects, not sure we will be able to raise enough money to finish all in 2020.

The estimates for the post and cable and sign removal on the west side is \$25,000. I do not have enough information yet to have a good cost estimate for the west side closures. The last piece would be the heavy closure for the west side road system. I do not have a cost estimate for that either.

If Wild Connections had the ability to come up with all or a large portion of the \$25,000 for the cable and sign removal that would be wonderful. I have a contractor who is interested. Just need to find the funds outside of the FS.

Thanks

Josh



Joshua Voorhis
District Ranger
Forest Service
Pike & San Isabel NF & Cimarron & Comanche NG, South Park RD

p: 719-836-3857

c: (b)(6)

f: 719-836-3875

josh.voorhis@usda.gov

PO Box 219, 320 US Hwy 285

Fairplay, CO 80440

www.fs.fed.us



From: Dollus, Scott -FS
Sent: 15 Aug 2019 18:02:10 +0000
To: Voorhis, Josh -FS;Heagley, Lisa -FS
Cc: Banks, Brian -FS;Schoonover, Jeremy - FS
Subject: RE: Wildcat Canyon plans & fundraising

Hi guys, just a little update. I am also trying to line up a contactor to install the closure barriers on the east side. I just got a quote for cement (\$1,015.08) I passed on to Nathan for payment and then we will have 5 pallets of cement delivered to Indian Creek and store for the winter. That leaves a balance of about \$2,700 I am planning on spending some (most) on signage. I thought I would get some signs to post at the cedar mtn road that say something like "Longwater Gulch Road 221 is closed 4.5 miles ahead" Any other ideas ? I should get back out there soon and determine where the closures should go and get a mileage.

From: Voorhis, Josh -FS [<mailto:josh.voorhis@usda.gov>]
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 1:17 PM
To: Williams, Dan <WilliamsD@co.teller.co.us>
Cc: Banks, Brian -FS <brian.banks@usda.gov>
Subject: Wildcat Canyon - Forest Service

Brian Banks, Ranger on the South Platte District and I wanted to see if you would have some time to discuss access issues associated with Wildcat Canyon. We are trying to determine good/defensible places to close down illegal routes and would like to see if Teller County would be interested in assisting us. Let me know if you have time to meet. Brian and I could make the trip to Woodland.

Thanks

Josh



Joshua Voorhis
District Ranger

Forest Service
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From: Voorhis, Josh -FS
Sent: 20 Sep 2019 19:50:40 +0000
To: Williams, Dan
Cc: Banks, Brian -FS
Subject: RE: Wildcat Canyon - Forest Service

Initially, we wanted to have a quieter discussion as this is a fairly sensitive topic for certain user groups. We wanted to kind of feel out where you and the commissioners might be before it became more public.

I will work with Brian on a date and get back to you.

Thanks



Joshua Voorhis
District Ranger

Forest Service
Pike & San Isabel NF & Cimarron & Comanche NG, South Park RD

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Banks, Brian -FS <brian.banks@usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 4:14 PM
To: Voorhis, Josh -FS <josh.voorhis@usda.gov>; Dollus, Scott -FS <scott.dollus@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Wildcat Canyon - Forest Service

Sooner the better. If we can't convince them we will find a solution, it just may not be the most convenient in terms of a turnaround area. Also it may be more of a challenge to get the materials there but we will put our brilliant minds together and figure it out.



Brian Banks
District Ranger
Forest Service
PSICC, South Platte Ranger District

p: 303-275-5612

f: 303-275-5642

brian.banks@usda.gov

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Conifer, CO 80433

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Voorhis, Josh -FS
Sent: Thursday, September 26, 2019 11:47 AM
To: Banks, Brian -FS <brian.banks@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Wildcat Canyon - Forest Service

When would you want to meet with Dan on Wildcat for the road closures? Teller County Road and Bridge called me the other day after talking to Jerry Paneck. He thought we were closing the roads in Teller County and was upset. This might be a tough sell. I suspect Jerry knows that we will have a difficult time closing the roads and is counting on illegal use continuing.

From: Banks, Brian -FS [<mailto:brian.banks@usda.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 7:18 AM
To: Kincaid, Bryan
Cc: Voorhis, Josh -FS; Martinez, Oscar -FS; Dollus, Scott -FS
Subject: Wildcat GPS coordinates

Hi Bryan,

Here are the coordinates. It may be easiest for you to copy and paste these in Google Earth. Holler with questions and thanks again for your attention on this.

Hacket 39 05'11.7,-105 19'19.7

Longwater 39 06'40.8,-105 18'56.5



Brian Banks
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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Kincaid, Bryan <KincaidB@co.teller.co.us>

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 10:47 AM

To: Banks, Brian -FS <brian.banks@usda.gov>; Voorhis, Josh -FS <josh.voorhis@usda.gov>; Dollus, Scott -FS <scott.dollus@usda.gov>; Martinez, Oscar -FS <oscar.martinez@usda.gov>

Cc: Clifford, Fred <CliffordF@co.teller.co.us>; Shaw, Brad <ShawB@co.teller.co.us>

Subject: RE: Wildcat GPS coordinates

Good morning gentlemen,

On Thursday October 17th Brad and I went and reviewed the closure points based on the GPS coords supplied.

After the site visit, Teller County respectfully requests that the closures not be located inside the Teller County line at those gps locations, but rather remain at the county line.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Regards,

Bryan Kincaid
ROW Supervisor
Teller County Public Works
P.O. Box 805
Divide, CO 80814
(719)687-8812 phone
(719)686-5454 fax

From: Painter, Mikele -FS
Sent: 18 Nov 2019 23:38:28 +0000
To: dawson.swanson@state.co.us;Banks, Brian -FS;Dollus, Scott -FS
Subject: Possible contractor for vehicle barrier installation at Wildcat

Hi Dawson,

Brian and Scott (cc'd) have been asking around about contractors who are willing and able to install the steel pipe and concrete-set vehicle barriers on the east side of Wildcat, and they haven't had much luck. People either aren't willing or aren't able to do the work. Admittedly, it's a tough spot, at the top of Longwater Gulch in Teller County, but it's certainly doable.

We've bought all the materials already, and can provide some logistical assistance, but we need to get a certified welder who can assemble the pipe on-site. Scott Dollus has thought through the details, so if you think the guy you have in mind might be a good fit, Scott can connect with him. Or if you think anyone in CPW has the skills, we'd love to hear about that too.

Thanks!
Mikele



Mikele Painter
District Biologist

USDA Forest Service
Pike National Forest
South Platte Ranger District

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Main: 303-275-5610
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mpainter@fs.fed.us (2018 email)



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CORE emailed Supervisor Trujillo in spring 2020 to secure her assurance that no work would be done to decommission the roads before the travel management

EIS is complete.

Condit, David - FS  July 1, 2020 at 1:36 PM 
RE: CORE/Wildcat Canyon [Details](#)
To: kevin@gardenlawfirm.com, Cc: Trujillo, Diana M -FS & 4 more

Mr. Garden,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the status of Wildcat Canyon. I'm responding on behalf of Forest Supervisor Trujillo as she is out and would not be available to respond by this weekend as requested. The Forest does not plan to do any work on the roads in Wildcat Canyon this year. There will be no changes until we complete our Travel Management Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and sign the subsequent project Record of Decision (ROD). We anticipate publishing a Notice of Availability (NOA) announcing our FEIS/Draft ROD in late August of 2020, which is immediately followed by a 45-day objection period. The final outcome of the decision will determine what future activities occur within Wildcat Canyon.

 **Dave Condit**
Deputy Forest and Grassland Supervisor
Forest Service
Pike/San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron/Comanche National Grasslands
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Caring for the land and serving people

Wild Connections announced their metal removal project the same day we received the Supervisor's assurance that no work would be done this year.

Wildcat Canyon Metal Removal Project Funded for 2020!



We are excited to announce that our Wildcat Canyon Metal Removal Project proposal was recently fully funded by Park County!

Wild Connections will be working with the USFS South Park Ranger District and contractors to remove the partially-buried posts and cable, as well as outdated signs, in Wildcat Canyon.

This project will take place later this summer, and we hope it is just the beginning to restoring this wild and scenic area at the South Platte River.

Many thanks to Park County Land and Water Trust Fund (LWTF) for their continued support!

The Supervisor's response when asked about Wild Connections' metal removal project.

From: Trujillo, Diana M -FS <diana.m.trujillo@usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 4:26 PM
To: McKay, Patrick A; Condit, David - FS; Dow, John R -FS
Cc: Joshua.Hosler@mail.house.gov; 'Jerry Panek'; 'Marcus Trusty'; kevin@gardenlawfirm.com; Beltran, Maria -FS
Subject: RE: CORE/Wildcat Canyon

I have. Wild Connections, one of our many USFS partners, received a grant from Park County to remove dilapidated post and cable and outdated steel signage. The old cable and inaccurate signage will need to be removed regardless of which alternative is selected and does not change the status of the roads or impact the decision currently being made through the MVUM EIS. The USFS has communicated to Wild Connections that this project is only for cable and sign removal and not for road decommissioning. I hope this answers your questions. For further information, please contact John Dow or my Executive Assistant, Maria Beltran, at maria.beltran@usda.gov.



Diana M. Trujillo
Forest & Grassland Supervisor

Forest Service
Pike-San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron-Comanche National
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