



From:
Town of Dolores
420 Central Avenue
PO Box 630
Dolores, CO 81323

TO:
U.S Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Dolores Ranger District
San Juan National Forest
29211 Hwy 184
Dolores, CO 81323

RE: Objection to Forest Health - Salter Vegetation Management Project #57671

7.28.21

Mayor Chad Wheelus, Town of Dolores Date

This will serve as the formal objection from the Town of Dolores with the Salter Y EA and the amount of total projected heavy commercial traffic use of the FS Rd 526 to CR 31 with final exit from the Salter Y area through the town of Dolores via 11th Street. These objections were presented to the SJNF during the comment phase of the Draft EA on or around March 13, 2021.

“Safety, Noise and Impacts to Residents

- We ask that more specific data on how speed limits and slow down signage will be posted and enforced for contractors and the public.
- The speed limit at the point where Montezuma County Road 31 and where it becomes a town road on 11th Street is 15 m.p.h. We request this information be made known to contractors and that contractors are notified that this speed will be enforced.
- We request that the Forest Service require contractors to have Jake Brake mufflers on all applicable trucks.
- To prevent project truck traffic from using town roads other than 11th Street, we request the Forest Service work with the town to designate a truck route.
- To alleviate disturbances to residents, we request the Forest Service work with the town to notify industry that truck traffic will be limited on town streets to certain times of the day. The Town will not be allowing commercial truck traffic on 11th street from 10 pm to 6 am throughout the duration of the Salter Y project”.

Contacts for the Town of Dolores objection are Mayor Chad Wheelus chad@townofdolors.com and Town Manager Ken Charles manager@townofdolores.com.

At the outset the Dolores Town Board of Trustees appreciates the additional efforts of the Forest Service in increasing communication regarding trail availability particularly in the Boggy Draw area. As stated by the Town previously, Boggy and the whole Glade area is a large economic partner to the Town of Dolores and



any impacts or information that can be developed is valued and greatly appreciated. The Town would also like to recognize the thoughtful efforts made regarding no hauling during recreational compartments that are economically important to the town of Dolores. The additional development of larger and more concise information centers and partners to ensure public awareness and continued access to recreational areas on Boggy Draw is also greatly appreciated.

This objection from the town is primarily around the Dolores Districts lack of effort or commitment to aid in the redistribution of commercial hauling traffic utilizing the 11th street route in the total project hauling expectations. The Town's concern is safety and noise.

The Town would like to restate that we will continue to strongly urge the Dolores District office to discover and pursue the development and use of alternative routes to the FS road 526, CR 31 which transitions to 11th street in town. Town officials were informed by the Dolores District office that approximately 75% of the total commercial hauling traffic would be using this route. This is a high volume of traffic over a long period of time and 11th street is adjacent to critical population areas such as Central Avenue and the elementary drop off and pickup location of the local school.

Without any additional cooperation from the Dolores District office in diversification of commercial hauling traffic to alternative routes, currently town officials will be seeking to mitigate this traffic volume by restricting 11th street commercial traffic from 10 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. every evening, reducing speed limits to 20 miles per hour and requiring every hauling vehicle to use mufflers to reduce noise pollution. Following is a section from the Town of Dolores Model Traffic Code. The town requests that the following language be inserted into the bid documents or guidance materials for harvest contractors. If it is not possible to insert this language, then we would request the Forest Service ask as a courtesy, that the truck drivers "slow" down and use or not use their Jake brakes. This could be discussed during the pre-work meeting and as the sale progresses.

We understand that in lieu of the Forest Service unable to address the Town's objections, it will fall to the Town of Dolores to mitigate the valid concerns stated above.

Dolores Municipal Code-Model Traffic Code Section 2-225. Mufflers - prevention of noise.

(1) Every motor vehicle subject to registration and operated on a highway shall at all times be equipped with an adequate muffler in constant operation and properly maintained to prevent any excessive or unusual noise, and no such muffler or exhaust system shall be equipped with a cut-off, bypass, or similar device. No person shall modify the exhaust system of a motor vehicle in a manner which will amplify or increase the noise emitted by the motor of such vehicle above that emitted by the muffler originally installed on the vehicle, and such original muffler shall comply with all the requirements of this section.

(1.5) Any commercial vehicle, as defined in section 235 (1) (a), subject to registration and operated on a highway, that is equipped with an engine compression brake device is required to have a muffler.

(2) A muffler is a device consisting of a series of chamber or baffle plates or other mechanical design for the purpose of receiving exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine and effective in reducing noise.

(3) Any person who violates subsection (1) of this section commits a class B traffic infraction. Any person who violates subsection (1.5) of this section shall, upon conviction, be



punished by a fine of five hundred dollars. Fifty percent of any fine for a violation of subsection (1.5) of this section occurring within the corporate limits of a city or town, or within the unincorporated area of a county, shall be transmitted to the treasurer or chief financial officer of said city, town, or county, and the remaining fifty percent shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, credited to the highway users tax fund, and allocated and expended as specified in section 205 (5.5)(a), C.R.S.

The town is aware that the District Office can develop other routes and or stipulate in industry contracts that these regulations be followed. Any effort on the Dolores Districts part to reduce the percentage of the total project commercial hauling traffic to under 50% on this route would enable the Town to also monitor and seek to modify regulations on the use of 11th street to access Highway 145. The Town considers the Dolores District office a valuable neighbor and looks forward to continuing dialogue and efforts in meeting this requested mitigation to aid the Town in maintaining public health and safety throughout the lifetime of this project.