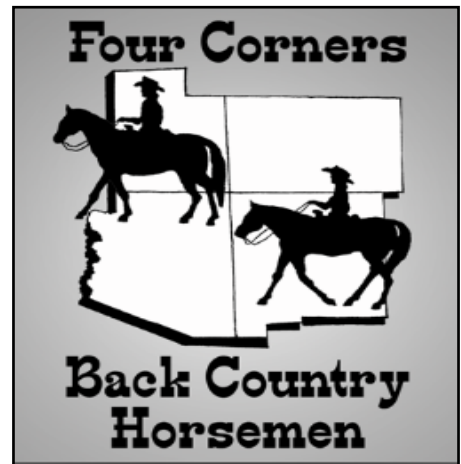


September 16, 2021



To: Columbine Ranger District

Attn: James Simino

District Ranger

Comments on: The Southern HD's Landscape Restoration Project

Pre-Decisional Draft EA

The 4 Corners Back Country Horsemen is a trail riding and trail maintenance organization, which is a member of the Back Country Horsemen of America. The Club has about 80 family and individual memberships. Many of these members use the trails in the HD Roadless Area and environs. Our interests are predominantly in the maintenance of the natural qualities of the Roadless Area and its surroundings so that all of the uses that are associated with the HD's are available to future generations. Recreation on horses is our major use (It might be noted that this use is not included with other non-motorized uses in the LRMP). We do not wish to eliminate any use, but do wish to ensure the existence of relatively natural surroundings in line with prescribed 2012 Roadless Area prescribed management.

We appreciate the decision to not consider the alternative OHV trail for motorized use in the Environmental Assessment. The rehabilitation and elimination of motorized use on this firebreak was one of our greatest concerns.

We believe that the firebreak from Saul's Creek should be restored, but also that it should not be considered in the future. There are many roads and motorized trails in the area and adding one more will further diminish the primitive qualities of the overall area, which is already a Tier Two Roadless Area.

We find the lack of a map of the Roadless Area boundaries and the failure to include a map of showing the location of the Area and of the Chimney Rock National Monument to be a substantial omission. After all the Roadless Area is involved in much of the plan. It is like Chimney Rock National Monument a classification, which should be recognized on area maps in the EA.

One final omission to note is the lack of mapping for old growth ponderosa stands. The HD's contain some of the largest stands of old growth ponderosas in Colorado and should have more attention in the EA.

We are happy to see this restoration in one of the largest areas of old growth ponderosa pine in the state. This is a unique area, which has already been reduced in size with changes in the Roadless Area over the decades since original RARE I and II Areas were created. We should work to preserve as much of the remainder as is possible.

Sincerely,

Charles Wanner

4CBCH Public Lands Representative

cc: Cam Hooley