



MEDICINE WHEEL TRAIL ADVOCATES

To: USFS Pikes Peak District Ranger Carl Bauer, and team
RE: City of Colorado Springs Pikeview Free Use Permit 36 CFR 228.62,
Site #2850-021209-RP-2023-001
Date: January 25 2023

Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates is a 501c3 nonprofit organization operating in the Pikes Peak region. Our mission is to **build, share and protect inspiring trail experiences** as we pursue our vision of a world-class mountain bike network in this region.

The board of MedWheel supports the above noted application, by the city of Colorado Springs, to use fill material from 24ac of USFS property, to complete the reclamation of the Pikeview Quarry only. Although we recognize that this use will increase the total acreage impacted by the quarry, we believe that the trade-off of the additional impact to natural areas is balanced by the overall improvements in the area that will be achieved with a successful reclamation of the quarry.

MedWheel additionally requests that the district consider the improvements in recreational opportunities that will be provided by this reclaimed quarry, within a broader context. The specific portion of the Pike National Forest that will be impacted is located in the wildland-urban interface that today already sees significant recreational activity, and is subject to an upcoming city planning process related to Blodgett Open Space. Interest in recreation in this area will only increase after these planning and quarry reclamation activities are completed. The need for additional trails to the west of the quarry, connecting uphill to Ormes Peak and other amenities reached from Rampart Range Road, will be magnified.

We ask the district to begin now, to plan for strategic expansion of formalized trails in this location and in other parts of the Forest that are already seeing significant uncontrolled and off-trail use. We suggest that a well designed trail system will help to **conserve Forest resources** by providing the recreational opportunities desired by the community, and the travel connections that we know are desired and already exist informally.

We are ready to support the USFS, the city, the quarry owner, and any other stakeholders in the successful transformation of the Pikeview property into a valued community recreation amenity.

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact us at info@medwheel.org.

Sincerely,
Cory Sutela, Executive Director,
Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates