**Jackson Mountain Gravel Pit : Opposed**

Jackson Mountain is a recreational Crown Jewel of the San Juan National Forest, and Archuleta County! Currently, Jackson Mountain is enjoyed by mountain bikers, hikers, hunters, and grazers. A gravel pit in the center of so much recreation is incongruous with the current user groups. Huge rock trucks roaring in and out of the now tranquil setting every 25 minutes will destroy the natural aesthetic setting. I want to make many bullet points to highlight the scope and impact of the project, not just the physical impact of the mountain and neighboring San Juan River Village but also on the Archuleta County taxpayers. Most of these bullet points are questions that deserve full attention from the Forest Service and other Archuleta County Tax Payers.

* Since the Forest Service is only responsible for providing the permit for this gravel pit, how much of Archuleta County's budget will be allocated towards this project?
* Will Archuleta County buy and maintain the rock crushers, trucks, generators, and other expensive equipment needed to run this gravel pit? Or will all the work be subcontracted out?
* If the project is subcontracted, who will ensure the subcontractor is not cutting corners or using less than best industry practices to ensure profits?
* How much money will building the roads to service the gravel pit cost?
* Since diesel generators will power the gravel pit rock crushers, how much diesel do they plan to burn daily?
* Will these generators be Tier 4 Diesel engines that have the best emissions possible?
* How much water will be used for dust suppression?
* Where will the water come from that will be used for dust suppression? At the US Forest Service Open House, I was told that the water would need to be trucked in. How many water trucks will be required for every rock truckload?
* Will explosives be needed to harvest the rock? Or will excavators and drills be sufficient to extract the gravel?
* What is the exact season (how many months will) the gravel pit will be open for?
* Is the geologic study available for the public, because what if they have it wrong and there is not good gravel material there?
* How many trees do they plan to cut?
* What animals will the project be affecting? I know elk migrate through this area, and I have also seen and heard Mountain Lions.

In conclusion, I believe Jackson Mountain is the wrong location for a gravel pit to serve Archuleta County and the San Juan National Forest. This requisition for an industrial complex in such close proximity to so much outdoor recreation is incongruous with the area's current/future recreational value. Jackson Mountain is really easy to access for people in Pagosa Springs looking for a unique outdoor recreation experience. It truly is a crown jewel of the San Juan National Forest and Archuleta County. There needs to be an existing infrastructure to support such an industrial goal, and it would degrade the recreation value and drain the Archuleta County Tax Payers.

**Jackson Mountain Bike Park: Support**

I will keep reiterating that Jackson Mountain is a crown jewel of recreation for the San Juan National Forest and Archuleta County. Both because of its natural beauty and because of its relatively close proximity to the town of Pagosa Springs. When tourists come to town looking for fun, family-friendly activities, what could be better than biking at an extraordinary bike park within 14 miles of their hotel. The tourism board could advertise Jackson Mountain Bike Park to attract more business for the town of Pagosa, and the existing bike community would benefit greatly from this addition of high-quality bike trails. There are a few items I would like to point out that would help make this Bike Park user-friendly to the public and the residents of San Juan River Village.

* We believe dogs should be allowed on the trail system. Currently, most San Juan River Village residents utilize easy access from their homes to the existing Jackson Mountain trails to take their dogs for long walks, hikes, and bike rides. It would be a shame to strip this resource from this user group and other dog owners from Pagosa who need easy access to exercise their dogs.
  + To help keep the trails clean, we strongly recommend having dog waste stations at all the parking lots, where the entrance to the trail systems are.
  + Dog owner rules should be dogs must be kept within voice command or on lead, and of course, must clean up after their dogs.
* Should E-bikes be allowed on this trail system? My opinion is NO. E-bikes should be used on designated motorized trails, not on the same trail system that will be primarily utilized by conventional mountain bikes. I believe they create a hazard with people going too fast on sections of trail that are not designed to handle a motorized vehicle.
* There needs to be strict enforcement of no motorized vehicles such as dirt bikes on these trails. Currently, there is a user group of motorized dirt bikers who ride on non-motorized trails, which needs to be put to an end. It is really scary when a dirt bike comes roaring up the trail with a super loud bike, who clearly knows they are breaking the rules and riding in a confrontational manner.
* An additional toilet or toilets should be at the top entrance to prevent people from defecting in the forest on the higher trails. People using these trials will not want to go to the bottom if they need to handle business. This could lead to human fecal matter near the top parking lots and along the trails. This should be a composting toilet/toilets.

**Jackson Mountain Fuel Removal: Approve**

The proposed fuel removal project is a great idea to help prevent forest fires from getting out of control. As a homeowner at San Juan River Village, the threat of forest fires is my biggest concern for living in this beautiful location so close to a vast forest. The work that has already been done has made the forest look healthier and clearly removed a lot of potential fuel from the Jackson Mountain Forest. I commend the San Juan National Forest Service for taking this proactive approach to help reduce the risk of a major forest fire in this area and promoting a forest fire landscape that is healthier for the forest.

Thank You,

Keith and Breanna Pitcher