August 20, 2024

To the USFS

I am writing to you today in response to your proposal for the development of a parking area at the base of Daniels Hill. Once again, I find myself in a quandary because it seems that we are back to the beginning again restating, rehashing our ongoing concerns for our neighborhood as it relates to unchecked ATV usage in our community. We were under the impression that the consensus of the LKL stakeholder group had laid out a linear course for the USFS, Gunnison County, the town of Marble and CPW to create parking plans which would eliminate ATV usage and trailer parking at the base of Daniels Hill

We thought there was validity and teeth to the findings of the LKL stakeholder group which worked on this issue for a long time to provide consensus-based recommendations for the town of Marble as well as for the USFS at the base of Daniels Hill. As property owners just below Daniels Hill, we only agreed to these recommendations if the TOM developed a limited number of ATV trailer parking spaces in Marble, then potentially adding a small number of spaces for low impact users at the base of Daniels Hill. NONE OF IT WOULD ACCOMMODATE ATV TRAILER PARKING/STAGING/OFFLOADING at the base of Daniels Hill!!! We also do not understand the need for an 90 foot turn around. That seems excessive as it would encroach unnecessarily close to our water ditch and our neighbors property by the Gold Pan Gallery , and it invites larger vehicles with ATV trailers up into this area which then creates more traffic up and down our road. Also there is nothing to stop people from using the turnaround as parking? As we now understand further after attending the meeting at the firehouse, there is no money or manpower to manage and maintain the proposed parking area after it is developed. This is a totally irresponsible use of money and time and will only add to our current chaos as previously stated.

We need to know that any new parking plan must include real commitment to protecting our water ditch from storm drainage and human waste. We want to make sure there is an environmental review of this plan and that we are ensured, in writing, that our water will not be polluted and that all efforts to achieve this endeavor will not be laid on the feet of homeowners. **I cannot believe that the FS, and Gunnison think that they bear no responsibility ensuring the safety of our water.**  This is wrong headed and you all should think again before dismissing the health and safety of the people who own property in the Daniels Hill proximity.

 Another reason we are very skeptical of this proposal is that we understood that the LKL recommendations included the USFS working closely with the residents right around Daniels Hill to try to make sure our concerns were accommodated. **So far none of us have been contacted by anyone.** The fact that this provision is now being pushed without our consent is not acceptable.

 Finally, I understand that there is an upcoming management plan review for the White River National Forest/ Lead King and that the USFS is considering down grading the road designation which would reduce maintenance of the road making it more of a ATV friendly. This is what we don’t want or need to happen as it will bring even more ATV users here to add to an already saturated problem and further cement our home as an ATV destination for the future. We strongly oppose this all of this as it is the wrong direction for correcting the problems we have all experienced with unmitigated use of ATV’s on our public roads.

Before the FS pursues any of the Daniel Hill parking, according to the consensus of the stakeholder group, the Town of Marble should provide a real management plan for a limited number of ATV trailer parking spaces in town. Yes, there has been some effort to accommodate ATV parking near the Mill Site park but the overflow is still happening all around the town of Marble, up at the base of Daniels Hill and wherever people want to park along county rd 3 as there has been no effort to enforce any of it. **Enforcement would be the final and vital part of the whole equation.**  We might have more presence but no one’s feet are being held to the fire on anything. We feel very strongly that **ATV’s should be permitted to use the backcountry** and that all of the rest will fall easily into place. Until you all make these real changes we are going to continue with the same chaos that has been going on for over 10 years. Noise, speed, dust and congestion. We are so sick of it!!

**Please think before you act and shame on you if you proceed to build something you cannot manage or maintain. Totally irresponsible!**