



Chaffee County Board of Commissioners

P.O. Box 699/104 Crestone Ave.
Salida, CO 81201

719.539.2218/www.chaffeecounty.org

Date: June 18th, 2025

Recipient: Ryan Nehl, Forest and Grassland Supervisor, Pike-San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

Re: Dispersed Camping Management on the Leadville and Salida Ranger Districts EA

Dear Ryan Nehl,

The Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) would like to submit the following comments regarding the Camping Management EA project design criteria:

Under design criteria ID HYD2/RAN1 related to the prohibition of camping within 100 feet of water, we would like to encourage the careful protection of waterways and riparian areas. We would also like to encourage a balanced approach in which as many campsites as reasonably possible be retained through mitigation efforts. Both the clean water originating from National Forest Land and recreational opportunities including camping are incredibly important to Chaffee County. We hope that the Forest Service can find an effective way to preserve both to the greatest extent possible.

Under design criteria ID WIL6 related to seasonal road closures in big game winter range, the BOCC recommends strong consideration for impacts to recreational activities related to new or extended seasonal road closures. Protecting wildlife habitat is always a priority for Chaffee County as is ensuring access to recreational activities including trailhead access. When evaluating changes to seasonal road closures, we would like to encourage the Forest Service to preserve access to recreational opportunities whenever possible.

We are encouraged with the progress being made on the planning of this project and look forward to its implementation. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,

Chaffee County Board of County Commissioners

P.T. Wood, Chair

Gina Lucrezi

Dave Armstrong