



Jennifer Schuller
Acting District Ranger
Aspen/Sopris Ranger District office
50 Weant Blvd, Unit A
Carbondale, CO 81623

February 28, 2026

Jennifer,

This letter is regarding the Forest's Service Environmental Assessment of the Twin Peaks Project. We are Crystal Valley Environmental Protection Association - Or CVEPA - a non-profit, volunteer led organization that represents the crystal valley drainage and its corresponding wildlands, wildlife, and waterways. It is understood that our ever-developing world requires constant resources, resulting in impacts on our environment. As our desire to expand and grow as a society has developed, so has our knowledge of our effects on our threatened wild spaces. We now know how to recognize these impacts as well as how to mitigate them with constantly evolving tools and techniques.

CVEPA cannot endorse this project because of its environmental impacts. It is the forest service and its contractor's accountability to ensure those impacts are minimized as much as feasibly possible. CVEPA has additional requests for what should be required for the project as the management plan is further developed.

- Consider use of a more local sawmill, as the mill discussed is 160 miles away. The carbon footprint of the distance and exploitation represent an unbalanced environmental cost/benefit.
- Minimize the width of the fire line along the road. This may be considered an excessive width for the purpose of fire protection. Verify with the fire department what they would consider an adequate width for a fire break.
- Integrate setback requirements from all wetland areas, springs, and streams to ensure that contaminant and erosion have adequate buffer, and that the wetlands are protected as much as possible. These have been prime locations for reestablishing beaver populations, which will be negatively impacted by this project.
- Ensure that raptor nesting surveys are completed prior to project commencement.
- Trees with cavity nests are to remain undisturbed.
- Due to this environment's exposure to cattle and grazing leases, it is important that this area is protected from grazing practices until it is properly revegetated. Fencing or the temporary removal of grazing leases from this area would allow for quicker revegetation and limiting invasive plants.



- A weed mitigation program must be initiated and enforced on the disturbed area prior to commencement and for the foreseeable future after the disturbance.

It is the responsibility of the contracted company to responsibly log this environment. It is also the responsibility of the forest service to enforce the contracted logger to follow requirements and practices, and this must be upheld to minimize impacts. The purpose of these documents and the due process are pointless if they are ignored and not enforced.

Thank you for your time and for allowing CVEPA to comment on this project, as well as address our concerns. If you have any questions don't hesitate to reach out to us for further discussion.

Sincerely,

The CVEPA Board of Directors

Crystal Valley Environmental Protection Association LLC

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