

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/22/2016 12:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Forsythe II Project

To whom it may concern, please find attached our comments for the Forsythe II project.

We could not locate an email address for Sylvia Clark or Boulder District office email & are frustrated at the difficulty of trying to reach specific people by email. Would have liked to have also sent to Ft. Collins Head of all We trust someone will forward to these people.

How about a page listing, as you have for all the District Offices, with phone #'s, physical addresses, but there are no email addresses with these listings. Obviously on purpose. Why?

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/arp/landmanagement/projects/?cid=STELPRD3846763>

The Daily Camera Letter to the editor, dated 22 Jan, 2016 by Clark Chapman (Nederland) was right on, well written and thought out. We fully support his take on this project.

Please read the attached & give us our 'standing'.

Sincerely,

Linda & Steve Marshall

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Roosevelt National Forest Mitigation

Forsythe II

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/arp/Forsythe2>

Our mission Statement:

It is our understanding that our National Forests belong to all of us and are public lands. We find that ownership slipping away from the people by the hands and tentacles of the Federal Government at all levels. We submit the following comments in support of our statement. Please consider this statement as our 'standing'.

1. Rules of engagement: While we understand and respect that the USFS needs rules and regulations on many levels, we also feel strongly that many R&Rs are overreach and rigid. In this case it is the process of obtaining 'standing' so one can comment publicly on a final project that is nearly a year away.

"In order to have standing to object to the project, you must submit a specific written comment during this comment period." - And it's only 29 days? - From Dec. 31 (2015) to Jan 29th, 2016.

We submit to you that any person ought to be able to comment at any time up until the said project begins & perhaps even after the project begins. You are surely not so rigid that if something unforeseen/unplanned comes up when Forsythe II begins, that you wouldn't make project adjustments, changes and improvements, would

you?

We understand desired project deadlines, plans, estimated dates of projects, but we find 'standing' is a bit of 'someone' (USFS) flexing their 'power muscles' - it is most unbecoming. Many entities tend to do this, especially when they want to limit public participation and when said entities want to do what 'they want to do'. It brings Boulder's City Council's Right-Sizing to mind.

Many people cannot attend community meetings, field trips, open houses, or don't have or want email. Many people don't pay close attention until a project is actually coming to fruition, but they are very interested, like you, in loving, preserving & protecting our forests, the people, and rights of the people.

2. Other Components of the Proposed Action

"The following recommendations include:

- * Decommission or close NFS roads (5 miles).
- * Decommission all Non-NFS (0.25 miles).
- * Convert one trail near Big Springs Subdivision to a NFS road for emergency egress purposes only. Widening and other road work would be done and it would be gated on both ends."

Comments: We find the closing of any road or trail (especially historic or 'been there a long time') in any National Forest abhorrent! Period! There are many reasons for this.

a. Again, it's the Federal Government overreach - going to tell everyone what they can or cannot do and of course, when, where and how.

b. Every single access/egress, in our opinion, in the mountains, should be left alone and some, even improved for the single reason of safety; not only for people, but for wildlife as well, both of whom use all roads and trails regularly, not only when there is an emergency, but just to live their lives and to find their way. This lesson has been learned from fires/floods in this very county - why would you decommission any road or trail; because you can? Perhaps because nearby property owners want it closed?

No roads or trails should be closed, abandoned, locked, blocked or gated 'for emergency use only', or for any other reason. We have learned some hard, ugly lessons here on Sugarloaf about 'emergency only' ingress\egress. Unused trails/roads tend to become overgrown, degraded, eroded, blocked, and otherwise rendered unusable during emergencies.

Even social trails have value as much as you may despise them. Social trails have value to someone, even wildlife, or they wouldn't be there. Wildlife has been the original creators of what we think of as social trails and humans then use them. And yes, humans create social trails and then wildlife uses them. We ask that you respect and think about that. You may unknowingly save a life. If you have to close or move a trail, build a new one nearby to replace it, but don't abandon or close without due consideration.

We believe strongly that USFS lands belong to all, that the government is for management only, in lieu of total rule. While we don't like some of the uses (either?), the degradation and other negative impacts, we accept that all people have a right to their public lands. Within some reason, special places for special things (shooting, four wheeling, hunting, snowmobiling, skiing) should be accommodated for. We think the USFS has over stepped what is right, or acceptable, in many instances. Please do not close (permanently) any roads, trails or make access/egress difficult in our forests. Again, you may unknowingly save lives. Further, just because a road or trail is removed from 'your maps', it doesn't mean it doesn't exist! This is a poor subversive tactic in our opinion.

Landowners should accept all roads and trails near their property, just as homeowners in the city have to accept roads, sidewalks and alleys as a part of being a public-right-of-way for getting to destinations. This should be

paramount on our public lands.

In closing, we say to you, yes, our world is over populated, our mountains/forests over-loved, and over-used. We also know you can't please everyone all the time.

Our world is not perfect & never will be. Please don't try to micro-manage our forests. Please don't try to make forests perfect (in your view). We do appreciate many of the good works the USFS does and we ask that you step back when closing roads or trails, no matter how much you want them closed, for whatever reason you think is justified. We've been there quite a few times, and we tell you, it is wrong, and so is requiring 'standing'!!

Don't Right-Size our forests.

Sincerely,
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