

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/31/2018 6:32:00 PM

First name: Brian

Last name: Levine

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Every year since 1998 the human population and activity around Cement Creek and Granite Basin has grown. Every year more dirt bikes, ATVs, razors, campers, hunters and others with motorized vehicles have made use of the Granite Basin and Cement Creek areas. Some of those users have respected the surrounding environment, fauna and floral. However, a good many -- in fact, more than half -- lack respect for these areas and have abused these lands as opposed to preserving them. Only a few, and those who are generally people without motorized vehicles, show any desire to assure the Granite Basin and Cement Creek areas will flourish for countless generations to come.

Throughout the last decades we have seen trails grow from footpaths into dirt-bike roads, then into ATV thoroughfares, and then into massive erosion areas. Lack of concern, respect and the "hell-with-it" attitudes have damaged and destroyed sensitive wilderness areas; turned plush hillsides into barren slopes; seen entire elk herds vanish or move on to less human-traveled areas. The loss is highly noticeable and exceedingly depressing. It does not have to be this way. Yet, human behavior is difficult, if not impossible, to control. More bluntly, those who don't care, have no respect, and sport egocentric attitudes are inexplicably resistant to change and re-education. And since it is guaranteed that with greater human traffic, especially motorized traffic, there is definitely greater destruction, few options are left to assist in preserving the Granite Basin and Cement Creek areas for those who live nearby and for future generations other than to place further restraints on land usage other than preservation via Wilderness designations.

What's more, usage has exponentiated from motor-bikes to ATVs to Razors to -- who knows what horrendous motorized, polluting, destructive, noisy vehicles people will arrive with next. I don't believe we have the time nor the desire to find out before our mountainous terrain in nothing more than a fuel-lined speedway.

Leave something for us, the flora and the fauna, and especially the environment, to co-exist with in peace, preservation and quiet.

Please stop limiting wilderness and think of ways to contain wildlife and wilderness destruction. Human beings can always invent another destructive, polluting motorized machine. But we can't return extinct floral and animal species back to the land. Please think Earth and environment first; and motorized destruction far, far, far down the list.

Thank you,
Brian Levine and Jackie Bingham-Levine
Crested Butte South,
Colorado