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Comments: Wildwood Special Order.

I think this is an important project to push through in order to make the rules and regulations of the North Star nature preserve easily understood by recreationists. Having both the Forest Service, in charge of the lot, and Pitkin County Open Space and Trails, the preserve, on the same page will make it easier to inform the rules, enforce them, and protect the nature preserve. I personally worked on the preserve. My primary duty was to educate the public on the beauty of the preserve, however, with the high water last summer, that quickly became a lower priority to reminding people the rules in the NATURE PRESERVE, teaching people how to park their cars, and warning dog owners of the active moose in the area. I think this ruling will especially help with the no-dog-on-preserve rule. People were often confused that dogs were only allowed on the craft, no swimming, or they could risk a fine from OST. Making it more clear that dogs are not allowed at the put-in and therefore the nature preserve, will make this rule conversation simpler. However, I suspect a lot of backlash from local dog owners. While there were no major moose encounters while I was working, I think it is only sure to happen if dog presence is increased. Dogs are wonderful pets but disrupt native wildlife essential to the preserve. I strongly believe these changes will make the Wildwood lot a safer and more easily understood place. Cooperation between the USFS and OST is important to addressing issues around North Star Nature Preserve. Restricting glass and dogs are rules on the water and make sense to extend to the parking lot. My biggest nightmare working at the North Star Nature Preserve was the fire lane. Whether it was locals parking there and telling me to F*** Off, neighbors pretending to run me over as I failed to get people to exit the lane, or those who park and play dumb, the fire lane is a hazard to all. It is important to keep that lane clear for the safety of the school, neighbors, and ease of getting in & out of wildwood. You would be amazed how many people forget how to drive and park their own car once they hit that Wildwood gravel. If the several clearly marked signs aren't enough, hopefully this project will help.