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Organization: Kokopelli Bike & Board

Title: Co-Owner

Comments: As an owner and operator of Kokopelli Bike & Board a local bicycle retail establishment we have great concerns about the proposed Boggy Draw and Glade Area Logging proposal. Impacts to the trail and the recreational closures of these trails directly impact our business. We make a living and have several employees that rely on the direct revenue from people's ability to ride mountain bikes on these trails. This proposed logging could not come at a worse time. The trail expansion that was just finish my be altered, negating countless volunteer hours of work. The new trail expansion has created quite a buzz in the cycling world much like the buzz 10 years ago that put Phil's World and Cortez on the recreational map. People are ready to come to Dolores and spend money to ride these new trails. We are so confident that Boggy Draw will become a cycling hot spot that we just purchased a building in Dolores to add to the cycling attraction and profit from these recreational opportunities, bringing tourists dollars, tax dollars and jobs to the area, while renovating a historical building to revitalize the Dolores down town.

We realize that the forest need to be maintained to mitigate the risks of catastrophic fires and beetle infestations, as well as bring forestry dollars to the area as well. We do ask that these operations have strict over-site when it comes to impacting the trails and recreational usage. We would like to see minimal impacts to current trails and where trails are impacted that reroutes be aloud so the continuity of the trail system stays intact. Forest service dollars should be set aside for trail repair or construction for trails that are impacted by logging operations, most trails were volunteer labor, please respect the effort by the community. If there are trail closures, communication with the Southwest Colorado Trails Association and us Kokopelli Bike & Board be notified so that we can spread the word to the cycling community. We would also like an updated map to be posted out our bike shop with current trail conditions. We also ask that any trail closure be infrequent and for short durations.

Once again we at Kokopelli Bike & Board would like to express our concerns about the timing of this proposed operation. We believe that the area is on the radar for a big economic influx of recreational tourism, stifling these opportunities at this time is probably the worse case scenario. The momentum for cycling in this area parallels that of Phil's World 10 years ago, and with that trail expansion it will gain even more traction. Please manage our forest for all opportunities keeping a mindful eye on the recreational opportunities and the lively hoods of those who will be impacted by the lost revenue of those seeking the recreational aspects. If you have any additional questions or concerns please contact me.