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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a resident of Dolores and want to take this opportunity to provide input on the logging project proposed for the Boggy Draw area. I live on 70 acres at [REDACTED], about 2 miles from the Boggy Draw trailhead. We bought our property four years ago and completed construction about 2 years ago. Our property fronts [REDACTED] and our driveway is accessed on the road about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of town.

I believe that excellent forest management includes well designed harvests as well as other commercial uses. I also believe that excellent management must consider many competing interests. In my career as a school superintendent in Washington State much of our rural district's general fund came from timber harvest on school trust land. The revenue was vital to the quality of program that we offered our children. And, at the same time, the preservation of a healthy ecosystem in the Pacific Northwest rainforest was also of vital, long-term importance. Additionally, the quality of life in small, often underrepresented communities is under constant pressure from competing interests such as over development and over regulation.

Given that context, I want to comment on three topics:

1. Recreation as a vital part of our community and of Colorado at large - we moved here, and our friends and family come to visit, because of the world-class outdoor recreation in the area. The Boggy Draw trail system is part of our lifestyle of mountain biking, hiking, skiing in the winter and ATV riding. We support local businesses for our sports needs and our visitors often stay in town or at local VRBOs. When we travel and talk about where we live, many people around Colorado and in other states know of Boggy Draw and either have or want to ride here. Maintaining the sports and aesthetics integrity of the trail system is of vital importance for our community to ensure local revenue, the reputation of cooperation between the recreation industry and the natural resource extraction industry, and to honor the countless thousands of hours donated by volunteers to build and maintain the trails. With excellent management logging can take place without significant impact to the local recreation industry, the thousands of people who travel to the area, and the local economy that depends on the activity.

2. Co-existence of a rural lifestyle and commercial forest interests - Our local lifestyle is one of close community and the daily enjoyment of the Colorado outdoors. I know my neighbors and frequently gather with them for skiing, bicycling, boating, or just to have a cup of coffee and discuss the local elk herd. We live in equilibrium with traffic to/from, McPhee Reservoir, recreational users of Boggy Draw, open range cattle operators, gravel trucks, and the Kinder Morgan plant. I urge the managers of the logging project to control, manage, and mitigate the risks caused by the logging trucks and related traffic on Rd 31 to avoid creating a lethal conflict of use on the road. There have been several logging truck roll overs lately. Decisive action must be proactively taken to ensure the steep hill on Rd 31 does not become a high risk environment. This must include a bottom-up and a top-down effort including truck drivers, management, law enforcement and the county road department.

3. Local jobs in rural Colorado - as the project moves forward, it is my hope that many of the jobs created by the harvest will be awarded to local businesses that employ local people. This will of course help our struggling economy and will also ensure that the people who do the work have the specific interest of their neighbors at heart.

I urge the planning commission to pay close attention to and to accommodate the specific recommendations being made by the local community in the interest of maintaining the local economy, our rural lifestyle, and the quality of life that Colorado is internationally famous.

Please feel free to contact me for any additional information, input, or discussion that might be useful.

Respectfully,

Richard Gantman, Ed.D.