Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/5/2021 7:07:26 PM First name: Gary Last name: Ratcliff Organization:

Title:

Comments: I live in Ridgway and I'm a professional photographer who hikes extensively in national forest land. I read relevant segments of the draft plan. I'm particularly concerned about the signage for and condition of FS road 850 which leads to Box Factory Park. At best it is what the Forest Service classifies as a semi-primitive road requiring 4WD and high clearance. It is for the most part a single lane road with a steep drop off one side and embankment on the other side. There are no legitimate pullover locations for the first 3/4 of the 1.2 mile road. The road is the rocky and often has large water-filled potholes. I have a jeep so it's not a problem for me. The problem is other drivers, especially out of state drivers who are sometimes towing a trailer, have no conception of what the road is like. And the fact that Ouray county road 9, which leads to FS 850, is an easy drive can mislead drivers to think so is FS 850. I have run into hunters who have gotten their trailers stuck on FS 850. In the San Juan FS district there are often warning road signs about FS roads that are not suitable for vehicles towing trailers and other types of warning signs. I haven't come across them in your district. Appropriate FS signage would be prudent at the start of FS 850. Even with signage, I anticipate folks with trailers will still go up the road. To avoid a scenario where two vehicles encounter each other going opposite direction, the FS could create some legitimate pullovers along the road while keeping it semi-primitive. I can provide you pictures of the condition of road if you would like.