

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/21/2023 5:09:23 AM

First name: Tony

Last name: Baker

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am opposed to the proposed gravel pit within 2000 feet of the San Juan River Village. I totally understand the need for gravel for both Archuleta County and the NFS but don't believe due diligence has been performed on selecting this site by Archuleta County. How can you not take proximity to a large neighborhood into consideration? My understanding is that another site was ruled out because of the impact to wild game in the area. Don't humans deserve at least the same consideration? There are other choices - SJRV has provided 5 optional locations to Archuleta County that meet the resource criteria, but importantly, meet proximity to neighborhoods and traffic safety concerns, which should also rank high in the criteria. We have many in our neighborhood that currently suffer from health issues and moved to this area because of it. There is no way you can guaranty this will not potentially impact them except to not locate the pit in this area. Many moved here to be able to sit on their back porch and watch the elk, deer and wild turkeys in peace and now this gravel pit site can take that away from them? How is the quality of life aspect not part of the selection criteria. HWY 160 has grown in traffic over the last several years with increased trucks and RVs. I personally have witnessed a half dozen near misses this year and hits with extreme results. Adding the slow moving, large gravel trucks at the rate of 20 - 50 per day is a disaster waiting to happen, even with safety mitigations that may be applied that have to cost a lot of money to implement. Why put people's lives at risk to save a few dollars on gravel? It's been well documented that the value of homes decrease the closer you are to a gravel pit. The impact to home values does not appear to be important to Archuleta County, but, I am hoping that it does to the NFS. The NFS has done an excellent job of reaching out to our community, notifying us of the potential issues, helping us understand the NEPA process, while we have received nothing from the county. I hope the NFS will continue to be an advocate for all concerns from all parties in this review process and come to the conclusion that a better site location is needed. Thanks for listening and taking action on my concerns.