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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am for the mountain biking trails project. I am against the gravel pit.

The San Juan river village is the largest neighborhood east of Pagosa Springs. The neighborhood has one or two main hiking trails up onto Jackson mountain. The primary hiking trail, from Scott's gate, goes within about 100 feet of where the gravel pit operations will be conducted (perhaps even closer depending on the ultimate footprint of the operation). Because this is the primary trail for the largest neighborhood in this part of the forest, this foot path sees significant traffic compared to other trails within this portion of the national forest. Establishing a mining/quarrying/crushing/shipping operation that necessarily relies on large, heavy, noisy, and dangerous equipment that causes significant disruption right next to one of the most heavily-traveled hiking trails in the area seems illogical and appears to be designed to create the greatest disruption to the most users as is possible. The vast amount of possible other locations within this or other areas of the San Juan National Forest will impact far fewer people. In addition, Jackson Mountain is heavily populated with a diversity of animals (I have seen a mountain lion, bears, bobcats, fox, turkeys, deer, elk and numerous other animals). A quarrying and crushing operation, with dust, loud sounds and large equipment moving about will create an unnecessary continual disturbance in this vestige of habitat. We therefore request the forest service approve the bike trails project but deny the quarrying and crushing operation.