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Comments: I have lived at the base of Jackson Mountain for 20 years and have walked, biked and skied it extensively. Of course I don't want a gravel pit so near, but that isn't my biggest issue with the proposal. During the summer it is not unusual to see almost every available camping space occupied. The same goes for hunting season, with many of the people coming to the same area year after year with their family and kids. Jackson Mountain has to be one of the busiest recreational spots in the National Forest in our immediate area. In addition there are plans to increase the use and traffic to this area by creating destination biking trails. If a gravel pit is located as proposed all of the visitors to Jackson Mountain will have to negotiate loaded gravel trucks weighing up to 36 tons on the access road from the highway. That means RV's, campers, motorcycles, trucks with horse trailers and passenger cars will all be meeting heavy truck traffic in order to access this recreational area. Even with improvements there is no way that these trucks can safely travel the same small dirt roads with these visitors. Someone will die and it won't be the truck driver. Another adverse effect will be the cakeflour dust that will be generated from the truck traffic. All gravel pits have this issue and I don't expect that the forest service is planning on paving. So visitors coming for a healthy outdoor experience will first have to drive, park or ride on a horribly dusty road. My issue with the proposed gravel pit is that it is unsafe and incompatible with the heavy recreational use that Jackson mountain already has and that will likely be increased by the other plans for Jackson Mountain. I also take issue with the fact that scoping is taking place during the winter when many seasonal residents are gone and out of town forest users are absent and unable to provide any input. As I already mentioned, Jackson Mountain has lots of regular users from other areas and they are being deprived of an opportunity to comment on these proposed projects that would irrevocably change the area. Thank you considering my comments.

Jeff Hester