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Organization:

Title:

Comments: 1. Other Sites. The project description says other sites were considered. Were the other sites at Jackson Mountain, on other National Forest land, or elsewhere in Archuleta County? Was the cost of acquiring land not already owned by the Forest Service a consideration in selecting Jackson Mountain?

Will the Forest Service move forward with a gravel pit on Jackson Mountain if Archuleta County does not support the project?

2. Mining Regulations. The project description refers to Colorado standards for air quality, etc. Will the gravel pit be subject to permitting by the State of Colorado or does the Forest Service intend to comply voluntarily with the state requirements for operating a gravel pit? What standards will govern reclamation activities at the gravel pit?

Will the operator be a contractor? If yes, will the operator be subject to Colorado permitting requirements (distinct from permits normally required of a landowner, if any)?

3. Safety. What part of the Forest Service planning process will address safety concerns about having both heavy truck and recreational/foot traffic on the roads to the gravel pit? Is it possible to divide that traffic effectively? Who will be responsible for enforcement of traffic regulations on the road (to the extent regulations like speed limits are part of the safety plan)?

4. Fuel and Vegetation. Does the gravel pit have any direct bearing on plans for fuel and vegetation management or are they independent projects? For example, will fuel and vegetation management activities proceed without regard to the progress of the gravel pit planning and permitting? Are there overlapping activities that would be undertaken only if the gravel pit proceeds?

Thank you for considering these issues in your scoping.