

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/20/2023 5:38:02 PM

First name: Gayle

Last name: Zonnefeld

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to express our thoughts and concerns.

While we live in Berthoud Colorado, we have for years owned property just above

Cottonwood Lake in Chaffee County west of Buena Vista. The address is:

27096 CR 344, Buena Vista, Colorado 81211

We have observed first hand the impact of the dispersed camping in the valley above Cottonwood lake and near the private property in that area, including ours. While this area has always been a popular area for camping, since the inception of dispersed camping it has, in my view gotten totally out of hand. The number of campers has exploded, and camping is done with minimal attention to the impact in the forest. We have seen campers push down trees to move into areas that were not camping spots. We have seen large groups of campers, and at one time counted 13 vehicles at one camping site. We have seen campers getting into heated arguments about who could camp where. There are no restroom facilities and campers leave toilet paper and other related items at their camps. In addition, the number of vehicles on the road has increased substantially, driving at excessive speeds. We have witnessed campers having fires with no fire pit or ring, with flames upwards of 8 feet, under pine trees. I feel it is not a matter of if there will be a forest fire but when. And while wildlife were plentiful a few years ago, now sightings are rare, with the exception of the moose who seem to be doing well. And from our perspective as private land owners we have experienced dispersed camping attempts near us and on our land, which has caused some challenging situations. People just do not respect private property. And a once quiet canyon is now being referred to as the "wild west". Gun shots are heard late into the night and in close proximity to other campers and our property

I realize the demands for camp sites has increased, but dispersed camping is not the solution and in fact causes more challenging situations. It seems the only solution is to limit the numbers of campers much like some of the national parks are doing now and provide adequate spaces for them in a camp grounds.

Thank you again and if you have any questions or would like to meet please let me know..