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First name: Joseph

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service Staff,

I am writing to express:

Support for the multi-use trail system being planned and proposed at Jackson Mountain outside Pagosa Springs, Colorado on National Forest Service lands, and

Serious concerns regarding the proposed open pit hard rock gravel mine at the same location.

The proposed trails are a much needed recreational system on the east side of Pagosa Springs and the USFS originally reached out to the local mountain bike community to explore opportunities and provide input. The proposed trail offerings are not being offered elsewhere in the district.

The proposed gravel mine, however, is a very recent proposal and has the potential to cause significant noise and air quality issues, as well as safety concerns for the planned and proposed mountain bike trail system that would overlap with. The "non-commercial" mine has potential to waste public tax dollars already invested in the proposed trail system by the City of Pagosa Springs, Archuleta County and the USFS, as well as local foundation grants that went into the trail planning.

I am asking the USFS to thoroughly analyze the impacts of this proposed gravel pit to see if it needs to be located elsewhere. Some key questions that should be addressed include:

What will be the impact of the noise from the mine on trail users, local residents, and wildlife? What are immediate and long term impacts of mine activities for the lifespan of the mine on human and animal populations?

The Environmental Assessment should explore if and how a gravel mine might degrade the trail experience of all users and create safety concerns. What measures will be taken to ensure the safety of mountain bikers on the trail system in the vicinity of the mine and the Jackson Mountain access road leading to trailheads?

Please consider my request.

Thanks

Joseph