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Comments: As a citizen of Pagosa Springs, I appreciate this open comment period by the USFS regarding land use questions at Jackson Mountain.

For reasons that have seemingly been provided by many in the comments already (noise, forest disturbance, noxious weed transportation, air quality, traffic in/out, hazard of big equipment in an already concentrated recreation area), the proposed gravel pit location offers immediate challenges to the residents of San Juan River Village, recreationists in the area, mixed land uses, and most importantly to the wildlife that find life force in this special portion of the San Juan National Forest.

For this notable and irreversible reason, deep consideration should be put into the decisions that impact both migratory and breeding bird populations in this unique meeting grounds of dry and moist mixed conifer ; and very visibly, for this core latitudinal migration corridor for deer and elk populations. As someone who hunts and feeds my family from animals that are born near, browse in, and live portions of their life moving thru this immediate area with an already concentrated number of different uses and activities, we should listen to area wildlife authorities and assess the impacts vary carefully in this decision. More people will ultimately equate to less animals.

As one who also enjoys mountain biking and sees and recognizes great value in this sport, I hesitate to endorse the full breadth of trails spelled out in this plan; as I know this area to be deeply valuable to wildlife. Perhaps prioritizing a trail system that is concentrated to a portion of the proposed area, instead of so widespread, could be a compromise with less extensive infringement on wildlife traffic and a concentrated trailhead.

This project is complicated indeed, as the area has already seen and will continue to see active timber harvesting and simulated treatments in an effort to mimic historical norms for fuels in the area. Lastly, the area is actively a sizeable draw for local and regional hunters and can reach busy times in fall big game seasons. Alongside wood gathering for domestic use, current recreation and camping purposes, assessing the seasonality of traffic in/out of JM should be a key consideration in calculating extended use for the proposed project area.

Thank you.