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Organization:

Title:

Comments: We are aware of the current proposal to allow for additional dispersed camping within Chaffee County. As property owners in the surrounding area I would like to express our concerns.

Our concerns with the proposal are

Emergency access

Access to Alpine and St. Elmo is limited to 162. Allowing vehicles, including RV's to park along 162 could create significant issues in the event of an emergency. This could impact the ability of emergency vehicles to reach our community as well as the need for residents to evacuate the area.

Fire Danger

While the proposal indicates fires in Chalk Creek would be limited to fire rings in designated campsites, the reality is that dispersed campers in the past have not heeded these restrictions. Alpine residents routinely come across what are currently illegal campers in Chalk Creek with illegal fires. Allowing dispersed campers in our community will only increase the use of illegal fires and increase the risk to the residents of Chalk Creek and their property.

Limited Resources

The Chalk Creek valley has already seen the impact of increased visitors and limited resources for local and federal agencies. Over the past few years we have seen increases in illegal garbage dumps, destruction to public lands, illegal fires, etc. Allowing dispersed camping without increasing the resources to patrol Chalk Creek will only see an increase to the issues.

We ask that the USFS strongly consider withdrawing the proposal to allow dispersed camping within the Chalk Creek valley and that further discussion take place not only with the residents of the area but also with local agencies including the Chaffee County Road and Bridge department and the Chaffee County Fire Protection District.