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First name: James

Last name: Connell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: [External Email]Fwd: Proposed Dispersed Camping

[External Email]

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----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Proposed Dispersed Camping

Date: Fri, 17 Feb 2023 18:58:31 -0700

From: James Connell <chris@st-elmo.com> <mailto:chris@st-elmo.com>

To: mary.davis@usda.gov <mailto:mary.davis@usda.gov>

Hello

My name is James Connell and I live in Nathrop Colorado.

My wife and I have a cabin as well as The General Store in St. Elmo.

My dad bought property in the St. Elmo area around 1970. My wife and I have owned and operated St. Elmo General Store for 29 years.

I really appreciate the efforts you are making to preserve the dispersed camping experience while trying to get a grip on over use in some areas.

I can only speak about our area as I have no knowledge of the goings on with the other areas.

Our area has 4 USFS campgrounds, Mnt. Priceton , Chalk Lake , Cascade, and Iron City. While these campgrounds are appreciated I think they should be expanded. Some of the campsites have been enlarged the number of campsites has not changed since the 1970's to my knowledge.

With the popularity of the canyon more camping opportunities are needed not less. I like the permanent closure of camping and campfires along CR 162 except in designated campgrounds.

I hope that the dispersed camping along 267 Tincup Pass Road will be maintained as is.

Protection around the Historic Townsite of Hancock is appreciated. More dispersed camping opportunities near the Alpine Tunnel Parking area would be helpful. The area is almost always damp and absent of trees make it fire safe for this type of camping.

I also think that handicapped access to lower Pomeroy Lake should be considered at some point. There is no high mountain lake in our area that allows for access by 4x4 close enough to allow for handicap use.

Lower Pomeroy lake has a old road that used to go real close to the lake. It would be nice if that road could be accessed by handicapped individuals.

Thanks for your time.

James Connell

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