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Title:

Comments: I've been camping in this area for over 20 years, and spend about 15 nights a summer with my family in this area, all in free dispersed campsites. While I'm very grateful for the access I currently have for free camping in the Salida/Leadville area, I've also seen the usage of these dispersed sites dramatically increase in the past few years. First off, I believe that any changes should not dramatically reduce the number of dispersed sites available. It is our public land, and we need all the dispersed sites we can get. Dramatically lowering the number of dispersed sites available in the valley would lead to other changes that may not be positive. Second, I understand that turning some heavily-used areas to designated dispersed makes sense. However, I believe changing an area to designated dispersed should be reserved for the most heavily-used areas. Twin Lakes comes to mind, as it has gotten very crowded and dense. I personally haven't been there in two years, but if it were designated dispersed I'd likely go back (on a day when I can find a spot that is!). Finally, I encourage you to keep the non-problematic dispersed areas as they are. In my experience, it is only the very popular areas (e.g., Twin Lakes) that are in need of a change. I haven't witnessed any issues in other areas of the valley (e.g., North Cottonwood, South Cottonwood, County Road 48 near Turquoise Lake, Clear Creek headed towards Winfield), and I believe as many of them as possible should be left as-is.