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First name: Katherine C Last name: McKinney

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Vehicle-based dispersed camping along the CR 162 is III-advised and is opposed for the following:

- 1. The risk of wildfire along Chalk Creek is already very high. Each dispersed campsite will have an associated campfire, exacerbating the wildfire risk.
- 2. Chalk Creek is already subjected to illegal camping and open campfires. Illegal camping occurs (and is unchallenged) along CR 292 which is roughly parallel to CR 162.
- 3. CR 162 is the single, narrow escape route for all residents, tourists, campers, and first responders should a wildfire occur. On any given day, CR 162 is heavily travelled and a mandatory exit would be chaotic at best, if not impossible.
- 4. Sections of Chalk Creek Canyon are residential and growing. Dispersed camping adjacent to or near residential properties already occurs and this is simply untenable due to wildfire risk.
- 5. Respectfully, due to lack of resources in this vast rural environment, neither USFS, Chaffee County, nor any other enforcement entity are funded /staffed to enforce or monitor compliance.

To date, reports of illegal camping and campfires result in responses of "insufficient resources".

6. The impact of vast numbers of dispersed campers has already resulted in environmental and ecological degradation. Illegal dumping, human and pet waste, trash, and damaged/destroyed roads, and meadows are testament to "loving the mountains to death", destroying the beauty and aesthetic of the environment.

To summarize, I vehemently opposed vehicle-based dispersed camping along CR 162 due to greater wildfire risk and land use degradation.

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