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Comments: Subject: Feedback on Dispersed Camping Along Chalk Creek Valley: CR292 & CR162

Emergency Access. Access to Alpine and St. Elmo is particularly limited to CR162. 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 Alpine and the need for residents to evacuate the area.

Unlawful OTVs. The increased use of OTVs on both roads would likely increase with dispersed camping impacting not only the experience of residents of Alpine and St. Elmo, but also nature enthusiasts using the local trails on foot or horseback. In fact, turning the road into a prolonged interdigitated campground during the summer. I do not believe adequate enforcement of OTV laws would be able to contain a dramatic increase in traffic.

Increased Fire Danger. While the proposal indicates fires in Chalk Creek would be limited to fire rings, unmonitored or poorly maintained fires/fire rings present a unique hazard in the valley 1) in context of the spruce tree die-off caused by the spruce budworm infestation and 2) single egress in case of wildfire. You only need look at the Waldo Canyon fire in Colorado Springs in 2012, to understand the huge risk of poorly monitored external fire sites. 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.

Camp Grounds. There are two supported campgrounds in the area at Cascade and Iron City that could be expanded to accommodate increased demand. Both areas are monitored by a full-time campground staffer. That is a more logical, safe, and cost-effective measure in allowing increased RV camping.

I ask that the USFS strongly consider withdrawing the proposal to allow dispersed camping within the Chalk Creek Valley.

Please consider opening a meeting between property owners within the valley as well as Chaffee County Fire Protection.

Thank you