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Comments: Please do not proceed with a plan to add dispersed camping to Chalk Creek Canyon without providing thorough public discussions. I recognize the growing influx of people wanting to enjoy the mountains. But this proposal raises many concerns, among them, the narrowness of the canyon, the heavily wooded terrain, the limited number of potential pull-outs, and the impact on property owners. Just from Cascade Falls to St. Elmo, there are well over 100 homes (over 90 in Alpine alone). County Road 292 runs past my cabin and becomes a Forest Service Road leading to the lower bridge over the creek. Policing that area is already a challenge but would only be more so -- and in an entire summer I've seen only a handful of USFS staff in the area. I am appalled at how understaffed USFS and the NPS are and find the inability of Congress to allocate sufficient funding absolutely inexcusable. But one unfortunate side effect is that this is not the time to expand and encourage camping in the Canyon outside the designated campgrounds.

Tom Frank

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