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Comments:

As a Colorado resident of the last 43 years, and regular visitor to these and other dispersed camping areas and other forest recreation in the state I appreciate the hard work of the Forest Service. While I support the addition of designated fee-based camping sites to help meet the increasing demand, I strongly oppose removing dispersed camping or access roads to the areas in this management plan. I am a user who would always rather have a primitive camp site than a picnic table and fire ring.

There are obviously new challenges with both the increased demand/usage and especially with people basically moving in, and not honoring the 14 day rule. Much of what I have seen as increased problems with littering appears to be from camp sites which are being used for living instead of recreation. I still cleanup ammo shells and beer containers at quite a few of the camp sites I arrive at (as has always been the case), but there is a greater issue that has been emerging with a population of full-timers generally in poorly maintained vehicles which has a very different look and feel than us traditional recreational users.

The suggestions I have are:

1) Continue to partner with local recreation groups and clubs to make use of volunteers and volunteer crews to support the management needs. Tell the groups how they can help beyond cleanup and maintenance days (those are great as well), or even having the public help with documentation of camps overstaying their welcome and littering. Educate the users on how we can help be a part of the solution.

2) Use the addition of designated fee sites to help fund additional enforcement of those managed areas. There is obviously a cost to developing those sites (which can also be aided with volunteers), however the income can be used to help fund the much needed management and enforcement of your thinly stretched resources. If necessary, add fees (which can also help fund management and educational signage) for the most popular dispersed areas, but don't restrict to designated sites only.

3) I suggest the forest service look into the potential of tools such as satellite imagery, used by other facets of government, to identify the overstayers and bad actors when it comes to being good stewards of dispersed camping areas.

4) For the most popular areas, consider shortening the 14 day rule to 10 days. This would at least allow some rotation of the best sites, and also make it more obvious who the overstaying users are.

Sincerely

Jason Dunckley