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First name: charity and Clint

Last name: Larson and Lamb

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the proposed "Dispersed Camping Proposal #60591".

As home owners in Alpine, our family is against the proposal for allowing dispersed car camping in the Chalk Creek Canyon (C.R. 162) and any accompanying part of C.R. 292.

The Chalk Creek Canyon is already home to multiple campgrounds that are designated for car camping. These campgrounds are well utilized and help contain the potential for aesthetics degradation, along with littering, within the Chalk Creek Canyon.

Currently C.R. 162 is highly traveled. The road needs constant re-grading. We would hate to see it paved just to allow more traffic to pollute the canyon heading up into St. Elmo.

Also, C.R. 292 is one-way traffic in most areas. Car campers and anyone traveling with trailers should not be traveling on this road. It is a one-way in and out situation and there are no good turnaround areas for them.

The current day use pullouts on C.R. 162 and 292 along the Chalk Creek are well within the 100 foot "no camping" designation. Therefore, any new designated car camping areas would need to be "taken" from the Forest Service land.

The potential for forest fires are extreme within the Chalk Creek Canyon due to the infestation of the Spruce Beetle on the forest. Our Alpine Homeowners Association has been at the forefront for helping Alpine residents combat the devastation on their properties by securing ACER and MCH packets for our purchase annually to help protect our properties. In the five years of owning at Alpine and placing packets on our trees, we are finally making headway against the Spruce Beetle. Unfortunately, the Forest Service trees don't receive the same luxury, and are dying only to become a much higher risk during forest fire season. By allowing car camping in the Chalk Creek Canyon, there is an exponential risk of a forest fire happening here.

The wildlife that utilizes the Chalk Creek Canyon needs to be considered too. We have witnessed moose on C.R. 162 from above Cascade Falls all the way to St. Elmo. Not to mention the other large wildlife such as big horn sheep, bear, deer, elk, fox and mountain lions that call this area home. By increasing vehicle traffic and areas for human use in the Chalk Creek Canyon, these sightings and natural habit areas used by these animals will disappear.

Finally, from a personal point, our family walks these back roads every chance we get! We cannot even begin to explain to you the gratitude and connection we receive from the quiet and tranquil this area provides us. This is a refuge and recharges our soul. By placing too many people in a confined area, such as the Chalk Creek Canyon, you lose the "special-ness" of the area. Just look at the overuse of the public areas on the Front Range!

Please do not open dispersed camping within the Chalk Creek Canyon on County Roads 162 or 292 now or in the future.

thank you,

charity larson, and Clint and Nevada Lamb

