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Comments: Browns Creek Alliance has reviewed the US Forest Service Notice of Proposed Action regarding Vehicle-Based Dispersed Camping (VBDC). The proposed action to improve the conditions in the Browns Creek Motorized camping area is comprehensive and should be effective in establishing better conditions and more sustainable utilization by the camping public.

Browns Creek Alliance appreciates the opportunity to provide our comments and we look forward to continuing to work with the Salida Ranger District to improve the forest in our area.

The NOPA proposes to convert the majority of the Browns Creek area to Designated Dispersed Sites which we support. This will help reduce the incidence of campers creating their own campsites and further damaging the terrain and habitat. We understand the process for selecting which existing sites will be converted to Designated and which will be closed will be determined in the future based on many factors. We support this process and would welcome further involvement in that process..

However, we would not like to see the net number of campsites increased over what exists today. In the area south of Brown's Falls Trailhead the density of existing sites becomes lower as you proceed further south. This may give the appearance that additional sites could be added but we would not recommend this. The system road network is limited in terms of how much traffic it can support, especially on busy Summer weekends. Adding additional Designated sites in addition to the existing sites would likely be detrimental to the overall camping experience, the forest, and the environment.. If, as a part of the analysis conducted to determine where Designated sites will be placed, it is determined that additional sites should be created in addition to existing sites, there should be an opportunity for public comment.

We also support the idea of a developed campground at the location proposed.

We like the Adaptive Management framework outlined in the NOPA. It should provide for objective criteria for determining when new actions should be taken. We hope that the published criteria in Table 3 can be discussed further and that there will be a process by which those thresholds can be modified as experience is gained with how well they are working. Also, to maximize the public's help in providing feedback to the USFS regarding the status of campsites with respect to the criteria in Table 3, we recommend the Forest Service work with Chaffee County to modify the Survey123 app that volunteers are using today so as to align with the action criteria. This way, volunteers can report campsite status using the Survey123 app in terms that match the Forest Service action criteria.

Browns Creek Alliance