

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/17/2023 9:22:17 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I Support Dispersed Vehicle Based Camping in Leadville and Salida Districts

Dear Leadville District Ranger:

I have been camping in the Salida and Leadville ranger Districts for 51 years now and plan to continue to do so for years yet to come. I did not see the VBDC definition. If your tent is 1 mile from your car, I get it, that is not VBDC. How about 200 feet? is that still VBDC? Without a proper definition people are confused and will only lead to conflict.

Primitive, free, dispersed camping is a highly valuable form of recreation on public land, and reservation-only systems should only be used to expand upon abundant primitive camping experiences instead of replacing them. There are solutions to the current problems of human waste and trash and the USFS should explore all possibilities. I also believe the standard 14 day camping limit should be the management rule in these districts. I am also concerned that this proposal punishes those who have practiced leave no trace principles. I am worried that this sets up an opportunity for citizen vigilantes to comb the forest for anyone in violation the new rules. Are you staffed for the additional enforcement this is going to take?

I strongly support adding the proposed 9 additional campgrounds. They are very much needed. I did not see the specification on them though. If they are only small like 10 sites its a waste of time for you. I think they need to be in the 75-100 sites per area. Of those I would like to see half as designated for first come first serve and the other half by reservation. In addition there needs to be sites set aside for group camping. As a 4WD club member we have nearly an impossible task of finding such a place for a group to camp at. Those group areas should be by reservation only. It appears that the yellow areas on the map are for those who desire a true, primitive dispersed camping opportunity. The poor mapping does not define the limits of the yellow areas. If we scale it off, it is several hundred feet either side of the roads. Is that correct? Does that mean that vehicles can then travel off the trails anywhere in the yellow? I doubt that is what you mean but who knows?

You need better maps!

USFS is setting themselves up for future problems by hardwiring where dispersed camping will be allowed. As needs and trends change the USFS should be able to adapt to adequately meet the needs of users and fulfill the overall goals of USFS. Designated campsites and concentration camping greatly hinder the outdoor recreation experience. Although some may prefer a designated campsite, I believe all users should be able to have the opportunity to find a remote place to camp in order to connect with nature. The physical and mental benefits of outdoor recreation are crucial to providing a healthy society. The USFS must do all in its power to protect these opportunities for users. More rules and restrictions just means more headaches and expenses for USFS. I bet you could add several toilets and dumpsters for the cost of a single additional enforcement officer.

Sincerely,

Charles Severance

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