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Comments: I have just a few comments regarding Blue Lakes Visitor Use Management Plan #61979.

The overcrowding at Blue Lakes has been a problem for years and obviously needs to be addressed. I have no objections to your plans for the three most northerly zones. I stay away from crowded areas - I've been there once, and won't return.

With regard to the Mt. Sneffels zone, based on my experience, visitation is down significantly from the past, apparently due to the return of "normalcy" after the Covid disruption. This year, I was very surprised by the very small number of climbers on Sneffels. From news reports, most 14ers have seen a significant decrease in visitation, which I think is a good thing. With regard to "1.7.11.18 Include Mount Sneffels in limited permit system", I don't think the number of visitors in this area even begins to justify a permit system.

I rarely visit the area on weekends, but during the week, parking seems adequate. As I mentioned, numbers seem to be down quite a bit this year.

I am unsure from your Figure 1 exactly where the boundary between Mt. Sneffels zone and Yankee Boy Basin zone is, but I do have some comments on that general area. As you note, the road has degraded considerably over time due to usage and inexperienced drivers. Unfortunately, improving the road could lead to an increase in usage, which is somewhat counterproductive. There is a metal gate set in concrete that had been pulled out when I was up there this summer, perhaps  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile above the toilet? I personally would love to see you permanently close the road above that point...but I am a hiker, not a 4-wheeler. Even so, most people who are hiking Sneffels or Blue Lake Pass trail park and hike from below that gate, down by the toilet. Above that gate, access is limited to just a few months per year, there are no real destinations other than the Sneffels trailhead, and as you know, some cross-country travel across the tundra has occurred.

I am pleased to see "1.7.11.6 Maintain the trail to Blue Lakes Pass (NFST 201) which has deteriorated, has loose gravel, has 2-3 ft vertical drops and can be difficult to both climb and descend." I hike this trail on a regular basis, and the upper part does indeed need some work. The original trail has been abandoned in one place, and a much steeper shortcut is in use that is very unstable.

Thank you for trying to make things better in this area.