Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/11/2024 2:18:30 AM First name: Margaret Last name: Burkesmith Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a backpacker, hiker, biker, cross-country and back country skier, the forest is my get-away, reset, area of full belonging, calming 'vacation'. Where life 'makes sense'. Because life in the forest, wilderness, is real, wholesome, and truthful. Living in this area for over 23 years, myself and my children have spent nearly a third of our time out on the land, taking in all it has to offer without the encroachment of too many other people or various motored vehicles. Especially motored vehicles which bring along with them many various loud sounds, fumes, gases, chemicals, sharp debris, added litter and more of all that we are escaping from. Our water comes from this area, let's keep it clean. The vegetation in these high altitude areas provide healing herbs and medicine to all the creatures and habitants, yet also to us. Some of these medicinal herbs are extremely valuable and rare, therefore they also need to be seen, known, and respected. The Pass Creek Yurt is one of our very favorite get-a-ways, as well as camping and hiking around Shaw Lake. These areas are so very extraordinary, why wouldn't we take every step we can to preserve them? Let's be as gentle on the land as possible. Thank you for considering our public comments as you make very impactful decisions on the Rio Grande Winter Travel Mgm't Planning Process.