

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/8/2023 7:00:00 AM

First name: Tom

Last name: Sedlock

Organization: Capital Trails Vehicle Association

Title:

Comments: We have assembled the following information and issues from our members and other recreationists for the project record. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments on dispersed camping in the Leadville and Salida Ranger Districts. We enjoy dispersed camping on our public lands. All multiple-use land managed by the agency provides a significant source of these recreational opportunities. Moreover, the pandemic has reconnected visitors to our public lands as a critical way to counter the stresses of ever day life. Most of these visitors are looking for multiple-use activities including dispersed camping. We are passionate about dispersed camping for the following reasons: Enjoyment and Rewards of Camping and Dispersed Camping [bull] Opportunity for a recreational experience for all types of people. [bull] Opportunity to strengthen family relationships. [bull] Opportunity to experience and respect the natural environment. [bull] Opportunity to participate in healthy and enjoyable outdoor experiences. [bull] Opportunity to experience a variety of opportunities and challenges. [bull] Camaraderie and exchange of experiences. [bull] For the adventure of it. Acknowledged Responsibilities of Camping and Dispersed Campers [bull] Responsibility to respect and preserve the natural environment. We are practical environmentalists who believe in a reasonable balance between the protection of the natural environment and the human environment. [bull] Responsibility to respect all visitors. [bull] Responsibility to use vehicles in a proper manner and in designated places. Responsibility to work with land, resource, and recreation managers. We are committed to resolving issues through problem solving and not closures. [bull] Responsibility to educate the public on the responsible dispersed camping on public lands. Dispersed camping opportunities supports many different visitor interests. Supporting dispersed camping is the best way to support diversity of uses and multiple-use. This over-arching fact should be adequately addressed in the purpose and need and adequately considered in the analysis and decision. We are representative of the needs of most visitors who recreate on public lands but may not be organized with a collective voice to comment on their needs during the public input process. These independent multiple-use recreationists include visitors who use motorized routes for family outings and camping trips, weekend drives, mountain biking, sightseeing, exploring, picnicking, hiking, ranching, rock climbing, skiing, camping, hunting, RVs, shooting targets, timber harvesting, fishing, viewing wildlife, snowmobiling, accessing patented mining claims, and collecting firewood, natural foods, rocks, etc. Our position is that the number of existing dispersed camping sites does not adequately meet the needs discussed above. The public would greatly benefit from continued management for multiple-uses including an enhanced system of dispersed camp sites. The pandemic has brought visitors back to our public lands and 98% of them are looking for dispersed camp sites and multiple-use activities. Therefore, we oppose the closure of any dispersed camping opportunities. We strongly support the development of a Pro-Recreation Alternative. We understand that the Management Team is under pressure from those opposed to dispersed camping opportunities. We have experienced the vast closure of motorized access and dispersed camping opportunities that have gone far beyond reasonable and justifiable decisions because of that influence. We ask the Management Team to review the attached significant issues and work on refinements to the analysis and plan that would adequately address and mitigate these significant issues. We ask the Management Team to use these comments and information as support and justification for more dispersed camping opportunities. We are looking forward to reviewing to your consideration of these significant issues and your use of them to develop a reasonable Pro-Recreation Alternative.