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First name: Mark

Last name: Mason

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in concern to the proposed project at Timberlane Campground. I have lived in the Pipe Creek Area very near to Timberland Campground for over 45 years. During this time my wife and family have used Timberlane for recreation and have enjoyed the campground and its facilities as well as the beautiful setting that it is in. I am not opposed to seeing some improvements but I am very opposed to the size of this project and the changes to the simple setting that is currently there. This site sits very close to many homes and private properties and is used by a large part of the Libby community. Many years ago when the campground was open to year round camping the Forest Service experienced a number of problems from vandalism and parties. The campground also was a very low use campground and the decision to make it a site for reservation use only and allowing walk in use both for summer and winter was a good decision. The site currently has many users who enjoy walking the roads and simple trails in the campground and along the creek.

This project with creating two pavilions and adding sites will drastically change the setting and experience current users have been using for years. It will turn a beautiful site into an eyesore and require removal of the aesthetic properties the campground has. Turning it into a totally different setting and experience. I would hope that the scoping of this project would not just include the newspaper and webpage but would be expanded to include those home owners and property owners adjacent to the project who would be impacted by the increase traffic and the change in setting to this beautiful quiet site. If this project were downsized to just replacing the existing pavilion in place and adding improved facilities to the existing sites I would be more supportive. However the addition of the proposed improvements will drastically change the setting and experience of existing users and those living in the area. I also would like to know how the additional maintenance costs of adding all these new facilities will be funded for the long term when the forest has trouble maintaining its existing facilities and trails. The forest also is short of law enforcement and this site has experienced problems in the past that have been negated by the current management of the site. The addition of more signing, food boxes and sites would create a whole new setting for this area. I respectfully submit these comments and hope that this project would be reconsidered with further input from existing users and residents. This site has been providing a very special experience and setting for many users and the project needs to take into account the existing users whose recreational experience will be drastically affected and changed. Please don't ruin this beautiful site. I would like to be kept informed on the decision for this project and also I would like a copy of any of the NEPA documents that have been or are being completed. The Forest Service used to use the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum to evaluate recreation sites and settings. Part of this planning tool was a sense of place. As I said above this project in its current state would change that setting and sense of place. The Forest already has many sites that can provide the kind of opportunity that this proposed project would create but it does not have many that provide the quiet, less intrusive site that Timberlane provides. Thank you - Sincerely Mark Mason