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First name: Marsha

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: MARSHA WILLIAMS

September 17, 2022

Dennis Kuhnel, District Ranger
Canyon Lakes Ranger District
2150 Centre Ave, Building E
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Mr Kuhnel;

First, let me begin by thanking you for taking on the Black Diamond Landscape Resiliency and Risk Reduction Project. This particular section of forest is heavily used and also serves as a gateway to many of the communities within and directly adjacent to this project area.

For full disclosure we own 80 acres of land just to the north of the project boundary at 139 Bridge Road in Sand Creek Park. The communities of Red Feather Lakes, Crystal Lakes, and Glacier View are quite well known in the area. Sand Creek is comprised of over 350 landowners and 16,000 acres backing up to the North boundary of your project. Characteristics of this area are very different than the other communities mentioned. There are no services (all off grid) and only a few of the residents live in this area year-round since it is inaccessible for usually 6-8 months each year. There is a landowner's association that maintains the dirt roads within the area, but no services outside of grading are provided.

Here is a quick snapshot of the area showing the general area (if you locate Eaton Reservoir on the map this provides the quickest orientation):

(see PDF uploaded)

For many years residents of this area have used Boulder Ridge Road (noted as 87C on your project maps) to access the area, and during the summer months the dispersed camping and hunting along this road is extremely heavy. Most importantly, however, it serves as the access route for the nearest fire station which is the Tie Siding Volunteer Fire Station located at 494 Boulder Ridge Road, Tie Siding, WY. There have been numerous structure and lightening fires over the years in Sand Creek, and this is the group that is always first to arrive. Additionally, you can see that this is the main road for egress should a fire prevent exit to the west side.

This is my main reason for reaching out as part of this project. I am truly hoping that this roadway will benefit from the fact that it is the northern fire break on your project map and would also serve as one of the main arterials for fire access in the project area. BLM and Albany County WY have done an amazing job of maintaining the road and thinning / removing trees all along the roadway until it hits the Forest Service/Colorado state border. Here are some images of the roadway on the Wyoming side showing the work of the past two years:

(see PDF uploaded)

Here are some pictures to contrast the conditions once you hit the Forest Service/Colorado section of the road:

(see PDF uploaded)

If you are unfamiliar with this road I would be grateful if you could take the drive from the east side near Tie Siding across to the CR80/CR89 intersection. I would also be happy to take time off and meet you up there if that is possible. For several years I have exchanged emails with both Larimer County and with USFS asking for assistance with this problem.

Thank you and please let me know if you have time to drive this roadway before the winter weather makes it impassible.

Sincerely,

Marsha Williams