

**Skyline Hogbacks Preservation Campaign
Cañon City, Colorado**

Mayor and Council members
City Hall
Cañon City, Colorado 81212

August 26, 2007

Gentlemen:

It is fortunate that the pending Forest Service plans pertaining to new ATV use rules and restrictions have been made public, so that the impacts these changes will have on the ATV use on the Hogbacks may be considered when you establish your priority standing for gaining control of the Hogbacks and initiating reclamation projects for the area.

It is a known factor of recreation management that there is a certain segment of the public, young and/or mature, who totally oppose any restrictions on any of their life activities. Whether it is their camping activities, placement and use of fires, alcohol use, quiet hours or where they may or may not park their vehicles. When rules or restrictions are put in place that affect their activities, this segment of the population then generally moves their activities to locations where there is less control, no control at all and/or no enforcement. That is what is in the future for the Hogbacks under its present no control, no enforcement and totally open status. The considerate ATV users will do their riding on approved open trails. The other group of non-conformists will seek out areas of no control and some will settle into riding their ATVs on the Hogbacks, if the area is left open and uncontrolled.

These new Forest Service ATV use regulations will mean additional "rowdies" using the Hogbacks in numbers that can not even be estimated until all the ATV use maps of the nearby National Forests are completed. As these individual forests make their ATV trail riding maps available, the non-conformist will gravitate to the nearest forest that does not have its maps published. As stated in the article, it may be several years before all the maps are prepared and published. This, the total impact on the Hogbacks can not be estimated until all the pertaining restrictions and degree of enforcement is in place.

The major question now presents itself concerning the Hogbacks is:
if the effort to manage, control, close, rehabilitate and assemble the necessary enforcement to protect these management activities are initiated in 2008, IS THERE ENOUGH TIME TO BE AHEAD OF THE IMPACT THAT THESE F.S. RULE CHANGES WILL BRING TO ATV ACTIVITIES ON THE CAÑON CITY HOGBACKS IF THE AREA IS LEFT OPEN AND WITHOUT ANY MANAGEMENT AND ENFORMENT?

Who can only imagine the environment damage this additional activity will impose on the already damaged and eroding area?

Your reading of the attached Denver Post article published 8/27/07 is respectfully requested.

Please consider this additional impact factor on the Cañon City Hogbacks when you establish a priority for gaining control of this area and initiating environmental protection measures.

Respectfully submitted,
Clyde Slonaker & Monica McGowan
Skyline Hogback Preservation Members

THIS IS A COPY OF A LETTER SENT TO EACH COUNCIL MEMBER.