

The following 5 minute speech, that commented on the concerns for the Geology of the Skyline Hogback area, specifically with respect to erosion, was presented to the Cañon City Council members at the July 2, 2007 council meeting. It was written by geologist, L. Immoor and presented by area resident and Hiking Club member, Roger Bernard.

Dear Council Members and Mayor Jackson:

EROSION:

Geologically speaking, it is the movement of weathered rock material, in other words sediments of all sizes, by the action of running water, glaciers, wind and gravity fall.

Living in Colorado, we are all very familiar with the movement of sediment by wind. On days with sustained wind gusts reaching 20-45 mph or more distant mountains are all but obscured by airborne sediment.

This is **NATURAL EROSION**. We expect it and accept it and we cannot stop it.

HUMAN EROSION is another matter and is something within our control.

In all locations and all climates, **VEGETATION** is of utmost importance in minimizing the effects of agents of erosion.

Roots of all forms of vegetation, no matter how small, anchor unconsolidated, loose sediment and soil in place.

In an arid area, such as Canon City, preserving what vegetation we have is extremely important.

The devastating effects that off-road vehicles can have on delicate and fragile root systems cannot be overstated.

In dry areas, vegetation holds onto life despite harsh climate factors and it does not take much to uproot that vegetation from dry soils.

As Canon City residents we need to do all we can to preserve even the tiniest plants from the destruction caused by recreational off-road vehicles.

And, in doing so, we will also be eliminating the Human Erosion factor and we will be preserving the pristine condition of the Skyline Hogbacks.

Thank you for your time.

Please note that, after the reading of this document, Councilman Jon Stone aptly pointed out that the biota affected by hogback erosion is, not only living organisms, but those long extinct, i.e. the dinosaurs and other fossilized remains.