

Letter to the Editor:
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Hogbacks Area Worth Preserving

To the editor:

Once and for all, let's set the record straight. The area between the Dakota Hogbacks and the lower or baby hogbacks has been systematically destroyed. This is the property of the City of Cañon City.

If I may take a quote from Rob Smith, "The voracious machines have eaten all the sparse vegetation and ground up the small pieces of limestone, the tiny fossils, and the occasional sharks' teeth (yes this was a sea millions of years ago). The Baby Backs are nude and nothing but humps of bare dirt.

"There are abandoned truck tires, wheels and all and pieces of carpeting. On the Skyline flank are deep ruts, dug by hundreds of churning, mud caked wheels. There are trails and ruts everywhere on the visible hogbacks. There is trash, soda cans, broken beer bottles and everywhere devastation." Yes, there has been systematic destruction.

Not only that, but walkers and hikers have been intimidated, particularly women and the elderly, by some of the motor bike enthusiasts. Not all of the motor bikers did so and I commend those who chose not to.

Through a lot of effort and hard work we can reclaim the Hogbacks area as an asset to the community. In time those tourists viewing the area from Skyline Drive can have a more positive conception of Cañon City. Voting "yes" on the hogbacks referendum will preserve the area as open space for future generations of school children to learn and explore, as well as those who enjoy the simple beauty of nature at its best. To keep the hogbacks as open space I urge you to vote in favor of the hogbacks referendum Nov. 4.

Nedra Swope,
Cañon City