

July 17, 2007

To the Editor:

I would like to address the letter of July 6<sup>th</sup> concerning the Hogback situation. It is admirable that the author has taught many to ride motorcycles in the Hogbacks and has made many friends in doing so. I have owned 3 dirt bikes and have many fond memories of the experience. I find, however, that the riders I've encountered behind the Hogbacks exhibited deplorable behavior. Some one is teaching them how to ride, but, who is teaching them respect (for private property or for human life)?

When we moved close to the Hogbacks, our street was a dead-end and the entrance to them was gated and piled with large rocks that muffled the occasional dirt bike passing by beyond. Unbeknownst to the entire neighborhood, some of the land beyond was privately owned (zoned county) and they were given permission, by the city, to widen the entrance to the Hogbacks and extend our street into the county to provide a road for new development. We had all, intentionally, purchased property on a quiet, dead-end street. We were not notified of the impending development until heavy equipment was brought in and we had to chase them down to find out what was going on. After the gate and rocks were removed and, besides the river of mud and water that flowed down our street during the first hard rain, there was a steady "stream" of dirt bikes and ATV's revving loud engines, doing wheelies and flipping us the bird, if we even glanced in their direction.

A hill was constructed that follows the road behind the Hogbacks and it has a barbed wire fence on top, posted with "PRIVATE PROPERTY & NO TRESSPASSING" The dirt bikes and ATV's and pickups have consistently ignored the signs and either cut or drove over the fence to gain easier access to their "recreation". When they ride on top of that hill, it now sounds like they're in our living room.

I was also walking my tow small dogs behind the Hogbacks when, out of nowhere, found myself being encircled by two dirt bikes and choking on dust. My dogs were frantic and the two young men were screaming profanities at me. This went on for about 5 minutes before they left. I, personally, know of two other women who had the same experience.

Several times we have been driving visitors over Skyline Drive and have encountered ATV's and dirt bikes coming at us, going the wrong way. They did not give us the right-of-way and we had to pull over to the outside to let them by. Then, they came back at us and passed us at high rates of speed while flipping us the bird. We have talked to many who have experienced the same situation.

I realize the Hogbacks existed long before we moved to this neighborhood, but, if this behavior of its usage has also existed for a long time, why, then has it ever been allowed to continue?

Joanna Rann  
Cañon City