

Writer to council: Close down the "Hogbacks"

To the editor:

As one of the several dozen residents (not just "several" as stated in the start of the story) who attended the council meeting July 2 to express our concerns about the ravaging of the hogback area by the uncontrolled use of motorized vehicles in that area. I would like to add my comments to the outstanding presentations made by Monica McGowan and others who spoke. The council had to be greatly impressed.

I suppose that since the community through one resource or another provides a place for the young to enjoy football, baseball, soccer, tennis and other activities, the community should also provide a place to enjoy dirt-biking, ATVing and similar motorized activities.

However, and that's a big "however" those other activities are governed by specific rules and regulations and more importantly, supervision, through organizations that I assume have certain liability insurance coverage. With the city giving it's tacit approval to the motorized use of the city-owned hogback area is the city (us taxpayers) covered by such insurance?

Until some organization comes forth with the rules, regulations and supervision necessary for the safe and sane use of a specific small portion of the hogback area for reasonable recreational motorized vehicle activities, I urge the city council to immediately close the entire hogback area to motorized vehicles except, of course, Skyline Drive, which is already subject to speed limits and licensing restrictions. Close it now. You can always soften the rules later if and when the situation warrants it.

James Spieth
Cañon City

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