



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pike and San Isabel
National Forests
Cimarron and Comanche
National Grasslands

Supervisor's Office
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File Code: 1950-1

Date: March 17, 2006

Dear Interested Citizen:

On March 15, 2006 in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, Forest Supervisors for the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands, and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests signed a Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI) authorizing a proposal to construct or reconstruct non-motorized trail segments totaling roughly 58.1 miles (42.3 miles construction and 18.8 miles reconstruction) between Halfmoon Creek and Monarch Pass (Alternative C described in the *Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Relocation – Halfmoon Creek to South Fooses Pass Environmental Assessment*). This decision includes the placement of a stock bridge between the Twin Lakes Dam and Colorado State Highway 82 to cross Lake Creek east of Twin Lakes.

The newly constructed trail segments will be certified as part of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDSNT) and will replace segments of the CDNST that are currently motorized. The new segments will be designed and managed for Pack and Saddle (i.e., horse use) and hiking. Portions of one motorized CDNST segment (the Timberline Trail) is currently located on and managed by the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests. This segment will be replaced with a non-motorized CDNST segment located on and managed by the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands. No motorized recreation opportunities will be lost as a result of the decision, as all motorized road/trail segments previously classified as part of the CDNST will remain open to motorized use. This decision includes an amendment to the 1993 Record of Decision for the *Continental Divide National Scenic Trail in Colorado and Wyoming Final Environmental Impact Statement* that reflects these changes in route locations between Halfmoon Creek and Monarch Pass.

More detailed information with regard to this decision, the design criteria, the rationale for the decision, list of commenters, responses to comments, and the Finding of No Significant Impact can be found in the *Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact – Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Relocation – Halfmoon Creek to South Fooses Pass* document. If you submitted substantive comments during the comment period copies of the Decision Notice (DN/FONSI) are enclosed with this letter. If you did not provide comments during the comment period, copies of the DN/FONSI are available upon request from the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands, Leadville Ranger District Office,



810 Front Street, Leadville, CO 80461, (719) 486-0749, or can be found on the Forest website at: www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/publications/. Please select the document entitled Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) listed under the Decision Notice section of the website. For your reference, copies of the environmental assessment for this project are also available at the locations listed above.

Information detailing the appeal process, and identifying those persons or organizations that have legal standing to appeal is listed in the Decision Notice document. It is important that potential appellants follow requirements and timelines pursuant to Federal regulations at 36 CFR 215, "Notice, Comment and Appeal Procedures for National Forest System Projects and Activities." The newspapers of record for this decision are the Pueblo Chieftain and the Grand Junction Sentinel.

If no appeals are received, implementation of the decision may begin on, but not before, the 5th business day following the close of the appeal-filing period (§215.15). If an appeal is received, implementation may occur on, but not before, the 15th business day following the date of appeal disposition (§215.2).

For further information on this decision or the Forest Service appeal process, please contact Jeff Leisy, CDNST Project Coordinator, Leadville Ranger District, 810 Front Street, Leadville, CO 80461, PH: 719-486-0749, or Jon Morrissey, Recreation Staff Officer, Gunnison Ranger District, 216 North Colorado, Gunnison, CO 81230, PH: 970-642-4439. The *Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Relocation – Halfmoon Creek to South Fooses Passes Project Record* is available for public review at the Leadville Ranger District Office.

Sincerely,

/s/Robert J. Leaverton
ROBERT J. LEAVERTON
PSICC Forest Supervisor

/s/Charles S. Richmond
CHARLES S. RICHMOND
GMUG Forest Supervisor