

# **APPENDIX I**



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Canyon Lakes  
Ranger District

2150 Centre Avenue, Building E  
Fort Collins, CO 80526-8119  
Voice: (970) 295-6710 TDD: (970) 295-6794  
Web: [www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf)  
Fax: (970) 295-6795

File Code: 1950-1  
Date: December 1, 2007

Dear Interested Party:

The Canyon Lakes Ranger District of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests is seeking your comment on an application from Larimer County to build a public safety radio communication facility on the summit of Middle Bald Mountain. The issues, concerns, and information you submit during this public comment period will help with the Forest Service’s analysis of and the eventual decisions made on this proposal.

#### General Description of the Analysis Area

Middle Bald Mountain is located approximately 40 miles northwest of Fort Collins and approximately five miles southwest of the Red Feather Lakes area in the NE¼ of the NE¼ of Section 9, Township 9 North, Range 74 West (see attached map). The summit of Middle Bald Mountain, approximately 11,000 feet above sea level, is accessible via the Killpecker Creek Trail. The nearest motorized access is within approximately ¼-mile of the summit on low-standard National Forest Service Road 517 (NFSR 517).

There are no recreation facilities on Middle Bald Mountain. The area is used by hikers and horseback riders traveling on the Killpecker Creek Trail. The trail rises very briefly above tree-line on the western flank of Middle Bald Mountain, and then dips back into the trees. There is not a trail across the alpine tundra meadow to the rock-outcrop summit. Visitors have expansive views from Western Colorado to Kansas and from southern Wyoming to central Colorado from the summit (see photos).



Figure 1: Looking east toward Middle Bald summit from treeline on the Killpecker Trail



Figure 2: Looking southeast into Cache la Poudre Canyon from Middle Bald summit

#### Description of County’s Proposed Facility

Radio communication in the upper reaches of the Cache la Poudre Canyon is currently spotty. Emergency radio communication is increasingly essential in that area because of increased recreational use and residential development in and around the canyon. Rural, County, State, and Federal fire personnel, the County Sheriff’s Department, multiple-agency emergency management personnel, public



works employees, and others are experiencing the need for increased radio communication capability both within the Canyon and between agencies. In addition, the Department of Homeland Security is mandating interagency radio communication operability for security purposes. Toward that end, the County has elected to phase in transition from VHF to the State's 800 MHz radio communication system and several omni-directional antennas.

Installation of an 800 MHz radio communication facility on Middle Bald Mountain, in combination with other recent improvements in the Larimer County radio communication network, will improve both County radio communications within the upper reaches of the Canyon and the County and State's interagency communication capability.

Larimer County is proposing to construct a public safety communication facility at the summit of Middle Bald Mountain. Many specifics of this action are subject to refinement as the Forest Service's study proceeds. As currently envisioned, an approximately 40-60 foot, three-legged, lattice-style, non-reflective tower would be fixed on top of the rock outcrop at the Middle Bald Mountain summit. There would be no guy wires. That tower would carry two microwave dishes approximately six feet in diameter with grey covers. A 360-square foot building to house the radio equipment and emergency generator would be located on a nearly-level area of alpine tundra below the rock outcrop of the summit. It would be constructed of a concrete slab floor and pre-formed, exposed-aggregate walls.

Electrical power for the facility would be provided by overhead lines to be constructed along the north side of the NFSR 517 from the Elkhorn Creek Trailhead at County Road 162 to tree-line on Middle Bald Mountain. The powerline would then be cabled underground across the alpine tundra meadow above tree-line to the building.

For construction, and operation and maintenance, an access road would be needed from NFSR 517 to the summit. The proposal is to restrict access to site maintenance personnel use only.

Middle Bald Mountain is not designated in the 1997 Forest Plan Revision as a communication site. A Forest Plan amendment may be required.

#### Call for Interest from Potential Site Users (Site Prospectus)

Forest Plan direction and Forest Service policy are to maximize utilization of communication sites. The Canyon Lakes Ranger District is seeking input from other electronic communication providers who would be interested in locating at this site, if it were designated. Facility options could include:

- 1) Public safety facility (restricted to government and emergency service providers), or
- 2) Low-power commercial facility (government and emergency service providers + non-government low-power radio providers like ham radio, AM radio, commercial wireless voice, data carriers, etc.), or
- 3) High-power commercial facility (the above + high-power telecommunication providers like FM radio, television, cellular, etc.).

#### Suggestions on Scope

The Forest Service invites citizens, agencies, and organizations to make suggestions about the specifics of the scope of the analysis. We would like to hear from you:

- ⦿ What alternatives should be considered?
- ⦿ What other actions should be considered?
- ⦿ What environmental effects should be considered?
- ⦿ What steps to reduce potential adverse impacts should be considered?

The analysis will address the estimated impacts of the County's proposed facility, the estimated impacts of alternative actions that would meet the need, the No Action alternative, and the estimated impacts of any connected actions.

After we have analyzed your inputs, determined the study scope, and formulated some draft alternatives to the County's proposed facility, we anticipate holding a public meeting to discuss what alternatives and issues the analysis will address.

When completed, analysis results will be published and available for public review.

To be fully considered in the project analysis and to keep the planning process on schedule, comments should be received prior to January 12, 2007.

Please send comments to the attention of:

Communications Site  
Mangi Environmental Group  
7915 Jones Branch Dr  
McLean VA 22102

OR

Send e-mail comments to: [larimercounty@mangi.com](mailto:larimercounty@mangi.com)

If you need further information on the County's proposed facility, please see <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/projects/ea-projects/clrd/commsite/index.shtml>, or contact Carol Kruse at [ckruse@fs.fed.us](mailto:ckruse@fs.fed.us) or 970-295-6663.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to object to the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Part 218.6. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address.

Sincerely,

  
ELLEN L. HODGES  
District Ranger

cc: Carol Kruse, Ellen Hodges, Karen Roth, [drowe@larimer.org](mailto:drowe@larimer.org)

**PRESS RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

REGHAN CLOUDMAN  
970-295-6770  
RLOUDMAN@FS.FED.US

**FOREST SERVICE STUDYING PROPOSED COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY ATOP  
MIDDLE BALD MOUNTAIN**

The U.S. Forest Service is conducting an environmental analysis of a Larimer County proposal to place a radio communications facility at the top of 11,000-foot Middle Bald Mountain, about 40 miles northwest of Ft. Collins.

The County wants to improve its radio coverage so government agencies such as the Sheriff's Department, local fire departments and other emergency responders can have more effective communications within portions of the upper reaches of Cache la Poudre Canyon. A facility on Middle Bald would help achieve this objective.

The land is controlled by the U.S. Forest Service. Federal environmental law requires that the Forest Service conduct an analysis of the proposal, any reasonable alternatives, and their potential impacts on the environment. One of the first steps in that analysis is to contact the public and other agencies and organizations for their suggestions regarding what the study should address. The Forest Service will gather comments over the next several weeks, then use those comments to help establish the scope of the study, develop alternatives, and analyze the potential impacts of any actions.

The Canyon Lakes Ranger District is also seeking input from other electronic communication providers who would be interested in locating at this site, if it were designated.

During the analysis, the Forest Service plans to share the interim results with the public and ask for further comment. At the completion of this process, the Forest Service will release the analysis for public review and comment, and then make a decision.

For further information on this proposal, see <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/projects/ea-projects/clrd/commsite/index.shtml>.

Comments on the initial scope of the study can be sent to Communications Site, The Mangi Environmental Group, 7915 Jones Branch Dr., McLean VA 22102, OR to [larimercounty@mangi.com](mailto:larimercounty@mangi.com).

Forest Service Contact: Carol Kruse at [ckruse@fs.fed.us](mailto:ckruse@fs.fed.us) or 970-295-6663

###

Editors note: For a .jpg vicinity map of the project, please contact Reghan Cloudman.

**PRESS RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

REGHAN CLOUDMAN  
970-295-6770  
RLOUDMAN@FS.FED.US

**SCOPING COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED:**

**FOREST SERVICE STUDYING PROPOSED COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY ATOP  
MIDDLE BALD MOUNTAIN**

In keeping with its commitment to respond to public concerns, the U.S. Forest Service is extending the period for scoping comments on its study of a proposed radio communications facility at the top of 11,000-foot Middle Bald Mountain, about 40 miles northwest of Fort Collins.

The scoping period is designed to help the Forest Service determine the appropriate scope of its environmental study of the facility proposed by Larimer County by identifying concerns the public has with the proposed project. The period for public input, normally 30 days, began on December 1, 2006, but was originally slated to extend until January 12 to accommodate the holiday season. Now, the Forest Service has decided to extend it even further, to January 22, 2007.

For further information on this proposal, see <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/projects/ea-projects/clrd/commsite/index.shtml>.

Comments on the scope of the study can be sent to Communications Site, The Mangi Environmental Group, 7915 Jones Branch Dr., McLean, VA 22102,  
OR to [larimercounty@mangi.com](mailto:larimercounty@mangi.com).

To be fully considered in the project analysis and to keep the planning process on schedule, comments should be sent by January 22, 2007.

Forest Service Contact: Carol Kruse at [ckruse@fs.fed.us](mailto:ckruse@fs.fed.us) or 970-295-6663

###

Editors note: For a .jpg vicinity map of the project, please contact Reghan Cloudman.

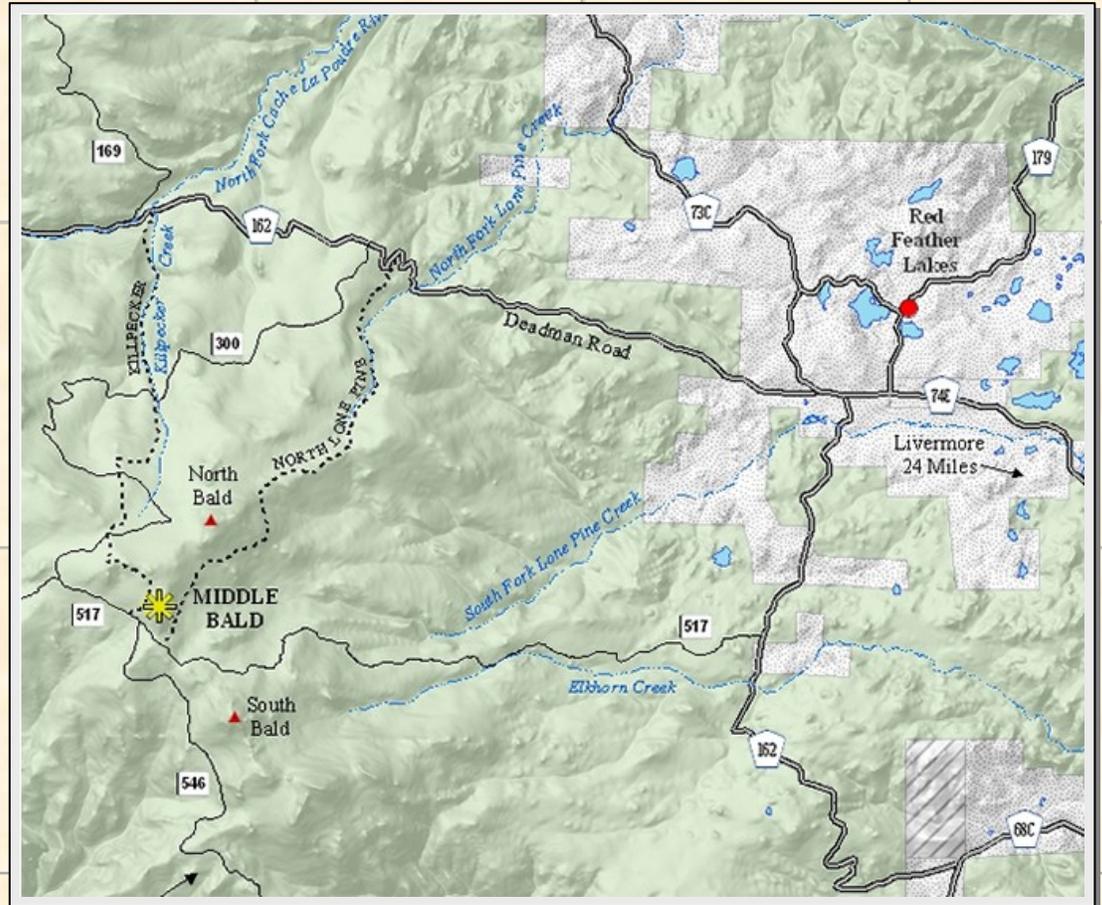


# PROPOSED COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY ON MIDDLE BALD MOUNTAIN

Larimer County proposes to construct a radio communication facility on the summit of Middle Bald Mountain, approximately five miles southwest of the Red Feather Lakes area. The U.S. Forest Service is asking for your input on this proposal.

The proposed facility would improve radio communication in Poudre Canyon for government agencies such as the Sheriff's Department, fire departments and other emergency responders and would include:

- Steel lattice tower;
- 360 sq ft equipment Building;
- Powerline west from CR162 along NFSR 517;
- Approx. 1/4-mile access road from NFSR 517 to the summit.



**PROSPECTUS:** The Forest Service is seeking input from other electronic communication providers who would be interested in locating at this site if it were designated.

For further information on the proposal, please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/arnf/projects/ea-projects/clrd/commsite/index.shtml>.

Comments on the initial scope of the study can be sent to:

Communications Site  
Mangi Environmental Group  
7915 Jones Branch Dr  
McLean VA 22102

OR to: [larimercounty@mangi.com](mailto:larimercounty@mangi.com)

If you need further information, please contact Carol Kruse at [ckruse@fs.fed.us](mailto:ckruse@fs.fed.us) or 970-295-6663.

From: Reghan C Cloudman [rcloudman@fs.fed.us]  
Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2006 1:19 PM  
To: Jessica Butts; Carol Kruse  
Cc: Ellen Hodges  
Subject: Media coverage

More media coverage for the project record...

[http://cbs4denver.com/local/local\\_story\\_339104406.html](http://cbs4denver.com/local/local_story_339104406.html)

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Reghan Cloudman  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Canyon Lakes Ranger District  
Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests  
& Pawnee National Grassland  
970-295-6770

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From: Reghan C Cloudman [rcloudman@fs.fed.us]  
Sent: Monday, January 08, 2007 11:13 AM  
To: jbutts@mangi.com; Carol Kruse  
Cc: dlarue@larimer.org; Susan Greenley; Ellen Hodges  
Subject: North 40 News Article

Attachments: pic28416.jpg

The editorial that ran in the North 40 News is not on their website. This is the article from the paper though. If I find the editorial (much like the one from the Coloradoan - same author), I will let you know.

- Reghan

January 2007

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Radio tower on Middle Bald  
Mountain draws fire  
By Linda Bell  
Correspondent

(Embedded image moved to file:

A Larimer County proposal to construct a 40- to 60-foot, lattice-style radio communication facility with two 6-foot diameter microwave dishes on the 11,000-foot summit of Middle Bald Mountain near Red Feather Lakes is getting close scrutiny. The Canyon Lakes Ranger District is asking for public comment on a Larimer County application to build a radio

tower on Middle Bald Mountain near Red Feather Lakes. This

forum in Red Feather Lakes, in view of the mountain was  
December debated the tower's photographed from Kelly Flats  
merits and is asking for more Trail about two miles east of  
time for public comment. the Pingree Hill Road. -- Photo  
by Chuck Bell

Because the site is located in the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest, the Canyon Lakes Ranger District is analyzing the county's proposal. The U.S. Forest Service also manages about six miles of access land, where power poles would be erected.

The Forest Service on Dec. 1 sent out a request for public input on the facility, noting it could augment spotty emergency radio coverage in the upper Poudre Canyon and Red Feather Lakes area. The deadline for public comment on the project analysis has been extended to Jan. 22.

Besides the tower and powerlines, the county expects to construct a 360-square-foot building and a quarter-mile access road from forest road 517 to the summit, at a cost of about \$750,000 to build the project. The county will also have to pay the Forest Service \$150,000 for the review mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act, according to David Rowe, the county's microwave systems administrator, whose office submitted the proposal.

The Middle Bald Mountain tower is part of a larger \$8 million project to link five towers that could upgrade the current VHF (very high frequency) system currently used by area emergency services to an 800 MHz system. The new system would link the Larimer County Sheriff's Office and local fire districts with Fort Collins police, Colorado State Patrol and Poudre Fire Authority.

In addition, the Forest Service is seeking input from other electronic communication providers who would be interested in locating at the site if it were built.

A lively discussion among some 20 Mummy Range Institute members and community representatives brought out passionate feelings about the mountain, which some call their local Matterhorn, a visual icon for Red Feather Lakes residents and visitors. They questioned whether the county would actually get the adequate radio coverage it needs from the projected tower and if the county could afford the scheme.

Margaret Reid, longtime resident in the village, said she thought it was the Forest Service's policy to protect the national heritage. MRI member Bob Lagow said the county's own master plan includes a planning project in conjunction with four other counties to protect the mountain backdrop as a way to preserve the foothills landscape.

Two members of the Red Feather Lakes Plan Advisory Committee, Ross Reid and Michael Sledge, agreed they felt let down by county planning officials who must have been aware of this proposal but never mentioned it during the extensive discussions regarding the area's pristine viewscape.

Sledge said he hoped the public comment period could be extended since many people are busy during the holiday season and would not have time to focus on this issue. He noted it took two years for the county and Forest Service to agree on a garbage transfer site in Red Feather Lakes, and he questioned why the county and Forest Service expect to build an eyesore with less than two months for public input.

Following the MRI open meeting, members of the organization came to the following conclusions:

The Mummy Range Institute will not take a position on Larimer County's proposal to place a communication tower on Middle Bald Mountain until more information is made public. MRI will undertake the necessary research to determine the relevant facts and then take a public position.

However, at a time when the county has so many unmet needs, MRI questions the projected cost and wonders whether this tower will actually improve emergency communications.

Larimer County has historically committed to the preservation of ridgelines and mountain backdrops. MRI fails to see why county leaders would choose to despoil Middle Bald Mountain, the most prominent and unspoiled peak in the Red Feather Lakes region.

Minimal information from project promoters combined with the short public comment deadline make more difficult a thorough investigation of the tower proposal. MRI counsels the need for close coordination between the county, Forest Service and residents to properly judge the merits of this proposal. MRI resolves to be closely involved in this process.

Rowe said the need for better radio communications has been expressed by all the local volunteer fire departments in the Poudre and Red Feather Lakes area. The county started looking at plans to upgrade its communications system before 2000, when a consulting firm was hired to identify the best line-of-sight locations.

At that time, Pacific Consulting found South Bald Mountain to be the best location, he said, and in early 2003 the county sent a proposal to the Forest Service to approve that site. The Forest Service declined it, Rowe said, because the summit is in a designated roadless area.

The next best site identified was Middle Bald Mountain, Rowe said, and in July 2003 the county submitted a proposal to the Forest Service after very comprehensive studies to assess conditions for the four criteria needed - radio coverage, clean line-of-sight, power and a road.

In 2004, the Forest Service accepted that proposal as an application, which eventually resulted in the Dec. 1 scoping letter, he said. The reason for the long delay, Rowe said, is that the Forest Service was understaffed, and at the time there was no designated special projects person to oversee the application. With Forest Service participation, the county hired Mangi Environmental Group of McLean, Va., to scope and engineer the project.

Rowe said he expected the public review process and NEPA assessments to take at least a year, during which time there will be a public meeting on the analysis.

He said if Middle Bald Mountain does become a designated Forest Service communications site, the public will be asked to comment on whether it should be for public safety only, or become available to low-power commercial or even high-power commercial facilities requiring larger, lighted towers, Rowe explained. The proposed 40- to 60-foot tower in the public-safety-only category is not high enough to require lights, he said.

Of the five towers that would complete the entire line-of-sight system, two were built this year on Bull Mountain near the Laramie River Road and on Pole Mountain in Wyoming, Rowe said. A tower at Bear Gulch northwest of Crystal Lakes on private property is already a commercial FM radio tower, and the county has a permit to use it for two years, he said. Besides the proposed tower on Middle Bald, the county plans to build another at Glacier View Meadows.

Comments on the initial scope of the Forest Service study on the proposal to build a radio communications tower on the summit of Middle Bald Mountain can be sent to Communications Site, The Mangi Environmental Group, 7915 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, VA 22102 or to [larimercounty@mangi.com](mailto:larimercounty@mangi.com). More information is available by contacting the Forest Service's Carol Kruse at [ckruse@fs.fed.us](mailto:ckruse@fs.fed.us) or 295-6663.

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Reghan Cloudman  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Canyon Lakes Ranger District  
Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests  
& Pawnee National Grassland  
970-295-6770

From: Reghan C Cloudman [rcloudman@fs.fed.us]  
Sent: Thursday, January 04, 2007 10:18 AM  
To: jbutts@mangi.com; Carol Kruse; Ellen Hodges; Susan Greenley  
Subject: Comm Site News Coverage

Hello,

Here is the article from the Coloradoan.

- Reghan

Article published Jan 4, 2007  
IN BRIEF  
Coloradoan staff  
Tower input deadline extends

The U.S. Forest Service is extending the deadline for feedback on a Larimer County proposal to build an 800-megahertz radio tower on top of Middle Bald Mountain about five miles southwest of Red Feather Lakes.

Originally, citizens had until Jan. 12 to submit comments to the Forest Service. That deadline has been extended to Jan. 22.

Comments on the initial scope of the study can be e-mailed to [larimercounty@mangi.com](mailto:larimercounty@mangi.com) or mailed to Communications Site, The Mangi Environmental Group, 7915 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, VA 22102.

Larimer County wants to build the tower to improve radio communication in the upper Poudre Canyon.

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Reghan Cloudman  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Canyon Lakes Ranger District  
Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests  
& Pawnee National Grassland  
970-295-6770

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From: Reghan C Cloudman [rcloudman@fs.fed.us]  
Sent: Friday, January 05, 2007 11:05 AM  
To: jbutts@mangi.com; Carol Kruse  
Subject: soapbox from Fort Collins Coloradoan

Attachments: pic27051.gif

Article published Jan 5, 2007

Bald Mountain proposal strips rural sanity

Ben Myers

On Dec. 1, the National Forest Service proposed a significant construction project for Middle Bald Mountain, a prominent peak west of Red Feather Lakes in northern Larimer County.

A communications tower, attached microwave dishes and utility building are to be built on the summit. The plan includes an access road through tundra to the site and several miles of above-ground power line in the adjacent forest.

This proposal should be rejected, in the interest of the land and of the people who call it home. The cost would be high, measured in both dollars and impact, and the benefit to the county is questionable

The initial 40- to 60-foot tower is intended primarily to boost official radio coverage in the Poudre Canyon. While current radio service is spotty, and there would be an improvement, the site is not ideal for the purpose due to its northerly position, and the Narrows section of the Poudre would still be without coverage.

The original proposal, developed by Larimer County, invokes the Department of Homeland Security (specifically Homeland Security Presidential Directive/ HSPD-5 and the National Incident Management System) for additional support. While these directives deal in general terms with communication systems, it is doubtful, based on information provided so far, that satisfying national security mandates requires a construction project of the scale proposed.

More concerning than the planned initial construction, however, is the National Forest Service's request for third-party proposals for additional construction on the summit, including "high-power commercial facilit(ies) ... like FM, radio, television, cellular, etc." as mentioned in the official scoping letter. Needless to say, this provision portends an eventual sprawling complex of private

construction that could dwarf the single official tower.

Middle Bald Mountain is instantly recognizable to residents and visitors, its high summit ridge and meadowed eastern slopes contrast sharply with the surrounding forest and are easily visible from the plains. The highpoint of the largely undeveloped Laramie Mountains, Middle Bald and its sister peaks to the north and south contain the lone expanses of alpine tundra in the region.

I protest this proposal as a symptom of an engineering neurosis, which seeks to consume money and methodically reduce our few remaining rugged and remote areas into measured tracts ideal for development, at whatever cost.

The Poudre Canyon already supports a happy and hardy human population and provides easy access to North Park and the high ranges of north-central Colorado. That there are fewer services available than on College Avenue is as it should be. To overhaul a beloved peak with the heavy tools of engineering in order to maximize communication is antithetical to the reasons people venture there at all.

Our growing region abounds with "good" reasons for overzealous and devastating infrastructure projects. It is true, this facility could bring improved emergency response or increased cell phone coverage to our area. I could well benefit from these things, as a rural resident, a small-business owner, and as a hiker, climber and backpacker.

I decline them without hesitation.

For allowing a bit of risk, we are rewarded with sanity. I chose a home that is inconvenient and beautiful.

I would encourage everyone with an interest in the wellbeing of rural Larimer County to learn more about the proposal and speak up. As of this writing, the public comment period is scheduled to end Jan. 22.

Information is available from the National Forest Service, Canyon Lakes Ranger District at 295-6700.

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Reghan Cloudman  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Canyon Lakes Ranger District  
Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests  
& Pawnee National Grassland  
970-295-6770  
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## Readers' Rendezvous

### Guest Commentary

# Middle Bald Mountain tower is bad idea

By Ben Myers  
Red Feather Lakes

**O**n Dec. 1, the U.S. Forest Service proposed a significant construction project for Middle Bald Mountain, a prominent peak west of Red Feather Lakes in northern Larimer County. A communications tower, attached microwave dishes and utility building are to be built on the summit. The plan includes an access road through tundra to the site and several miles of aboveground powerline in the adjacent forest.

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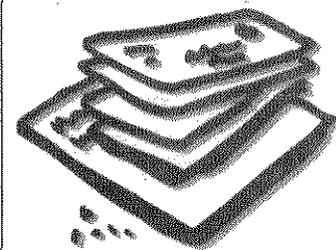
is as it should be. To overhaul a beloved peak with the heavy tools of engineering in order to maximize communication is antithetical to the reasons people venture there at all.

Our growing region abounds with "good" reasons for overzealous and devastating infrastructure projects. It is true, this facility could bring improved emergency response or increased cell phone coverage to our area. I could well benefit from these things, as a rural resident, a small business owner, and as a hiker, climber and backpacker.

I decline them without hesitation.

For allowing a bit of risk, we are rewarded with sanity. I chose a home that is inconvenient and beautiful.

I would encourage everyone with an interest in the well-being



*The North Forty News welcome. Letters to the editor (250 word maximum). Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number for verification of authorship. Space preference is given to topics concerning northern Larimer County. Send your thoughts to North Forty News, 3101 Kintzle Court, Unft J, LaPorte, CO 80535 c info @northfortynews.com.*

of rural Larimer County to learn more about the proposal and speak up. As of this writing, the public comment period was scheduled to end Jan. 12. Information available from the Forest Service-Canyon Lakes Ranger District, 970-295-6700.

From: Reghan C Cloudman [rcloudman@fs.fed.us]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2007 10:57 AM  
To: jbutts@mangi.com; Carol Kruse  
Cc: Susan Greenley; Ellen Hodges  
Subject: Letters to the Editor: Tower

Here are two letters to the editor from the Coloradoan. - Reghan

Article published Jan 14, 2007

Tower is a necessity

Bill Sears

I am a resident of Poudre Canyon. I would like to respond to Red Feather Lakes resident Ben Meyers who opposes a proposed U.S. Forest Service communication tower on Middle Bald Mountain near Red Feather Lakes.

Much of the upper part of Poudre Canyon has poor radio communication for emergency services. This tower would do much to rectify this problem.

It's commendable that Myers feels he is capable of taking care of himself in an emergency situation, but I suspect he (and most people) would like to have a response to his emergency if he slid off the road in Poudre Canyon, had a climbing or kayak accident on the river, or if his family had a medical emergency in the canyon. Responses to emergencies are currently hampered by the lack of adequate radio communication in the upper canyon.

The construction of this tower is widely supported by affected residents and all local emergency response agencies. Please help support the installation of this tower by writing a letter before Jan. 22 to Communications Site, Mangi Environmental Group, 7915 Jones Branch Dr., McLean VA 22102.

Bill Sears,  
Poudre Park

Article published Jan 12, 2007

Radio tower needed for public safety

Maj. Justin Smith

On January 5, the Coloradoan published a Soapbox by Ben Myers of Red Feather Lakes opposing a radio tower on Middle Bald Mountain. Myers is certainly entitled to his opinion, but the community is entitled to the full story about this proposal.

Over the last two decades, communications needs and technologies have changed significantly. In 1987, we had no cell phones, no Internet, no satellite television, no instant messaging, no e-mail, no text messaging, no text paging and almost no true 911 service.

In the public safety community, we had very little automation of police records, so agencies could not share information on criminal occurrences or criminals. Police agencies had stand-alone radio systems operating on the old, uncluttered VHF band. It was simple, but it allowed us to transmit information to deputies in the field. The public did not expect police agencies to share information or communicate. In the post 9-11 world, the public rightfully expects police agencies to share information and to communicate effectively. As of two years ago, we implemented a shared police records in Larimer County.

In 1987, if someone was in an accident, got lost in the mountains or spotted a forest fire, they expected to drive for miles to find a pay phone and they expected that it could take hours for a police, fire or rescue services to respond. In 2007, when someone's life is at risk, they rely on any number of communications devices to contact authorities and they have the right to expect that their rescuers can be dispatched by radio to respond. Further, they have the right to expect that those rescuers can communicate effectively with each other. Unfortunately, all too often that can not happen now in many parts of Larimer County.

All those fancy electronic devices that we use throughout the day fill the air with electronic noise that blocks the traditional VHF radios waves that we have used for years to dispatch deputies, firefighters and paramedics. Radios that worked 20 years ago don't work today. Transitioning to a modern, functioning radio system is a very expensive proposition. If it wasn't an absolute necessity, we wouldn't be spending our time or the public dollars on it. We have dozens of other significant needs, but this one is at the top of the list.

The Larimer County Sheriff's Office has an obligation to provide basic

levels of public safety services to the community and we owe it to the men and women who voluntarily risk their lives for those in need to provide a reliable, functional communications system for them.

In our proposal to add the necessary sites to make emergency radio coverage work in the northwestern part of the county, we have made compromises to minimize the impact on the region, but we would be derelict in our duties to the community if we simply walked away from this responsibility to provide a functioning emergency radio system. The truth is that the emergency radio coverage around the county is worse today than it was 20 years ago and it will continue to get worse every day until we make these changes.

I ask you to support the Sheriff's Office on the proposal to add radio communications on the Middle Bald Mountain site. It is not simply an option to improve some coverage in a small portion of the Poudre Canyon; it is an essential piece of the puzzle to provide a functioning emergency radio system to serve the deputies and all citizens and visitors to the county.

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Reghan Cloudman  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Canyon Lakes Ranger District  
Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests  
& Pawnee National Grassland  
970-295-6770  
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From: Reghan C Cloudman [rcloudman@fs.fed.us]  
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2007 4:42 PM  
To: Carol Kruse; jbutts@mangi.com  
Cc: Ellen Hodges; Susan Greenley  
Subject: Another Letter to the Editor

Here is another letter to the editor from the Coloradoan...

Article published Jan 18, 2007  
Don't degrade mountain  
Larry and Margie Caswell

Gazing west at Horsetooth Rock, imagine a tangle of towers protruding from its summit. Would we have degraded a vital part of our natural environment?

Just like Horsetooth's relationship to Fort Collins, Middle Bald Mountain is the visual crown for Red Feather Lakes and much of northern Larimer County. This could change as Larimer County has asked the U.S. Forest Service for permission to install a 60-foot communications tower and adjacent building on the summit of Middle Bald, a road through the tundra, and 6 miles of power lines. If approved, the USFS has hinted that it might consider permits for additional antennas.

The stated purpose of this project is to improve and standardize area emergency communications. Yet, it is acknowledged that this is not the ideal location, missing parts of Poudre Canyon.

Larimer County has been considering this project for years, and yet public notice did not come until December with just 45 days for public consideration and comment. During two years spent creating the Red Feather Lakes Area Plan, the county never mentioned this project, even though a plan goal is preserving the scenic, natural and historical qualities of the RFL area.

It can become too easy to sit back, allowing one scar after another to encroach on our scenic ridgelines. Before Jan. 22, please contact Carol Kruse at the USFS at ckruse@fs.fed.us and Larimer County at larimercounty@mangi.com. Ask for public meetings, more time for citizen input and a full Environmental Impact Statement.

Larry and Margie Caswell,  
Red Feather Lakes

From: Reghan C Cloudman [rcloudman@fs.fed.us]  
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2007 10:30 AM  
To: Carol Kruse; jbutts@mangi.com  
Cc: Ellen Hodges; Susan Greenley  
Subject: Soapbox on tower

Attachments: pic05022.gif

Article published Jan 19, 2007  
Radio tower would spoil essence of mountain  
Susannah Wright

I recently learned about Larimer County's and the U.S. Forest Service's proposal to construct a communication tower on Middle Bald Mountain west of Red Feather Lakes.

I've heard the project is necessary for public safety and the protection of the community.

As a member of the public and a resident of the community slated for protection, I respectfully decline the offer. I don't believe Middle Bald Mountain is a fair trade.

Over the past 20 years, I've lived in the Poudre Canyon (Upper and Lower), Red Feather Lakes and Livermore.

The Baldies' distinctive 11,000-foot peaks, dominated in the center by sheer, rocky Middle Bald, not only define the landscape of the northern Front Range; these mountains are also woven deeply and inseparably into my life.

In the summer of 1992, my husband, Michael, proposed to me on Middle Bald under the light of a full moon.

Since then, I've ridden horses, rode bikes, hiked, backpacked, snowshoed and skied on every road and trail through The Baldies. It's also where I learned how to read a map, plot a course and travel safely alone through the backcountry.

Middle Bald is one of the first places my husband and I took our children hiking. When Sam and Anna were babies, we would carry them up the mountain in backpacks to play in the meadow at the top.

We would park ourselves next to a bush covered in juicy, red raspberries

and stuff ourselves until we were full. Then we would doze under the hot sun while the kids slept peacefully in the wildflowers.

Last summer, I went on a backpacking trip to Middle Bald with my husband and children, who are now ages 7 and 10.

This time, the kids carried their own packs, helped set up the tent and even scouted out a spring for water.

After dinner, we walked from our campsite on the edge of the meadow toward the top of the mountain, which was afire in the setting sun. A rainbow stretched across the tundra, arcing high above us before disappearing on the other side of the summit.

As Anna ran to the top of Middle Bald to find the end of the rainbow, Sam gazed out on the 360-degree view of peaks, canyons, rivers, and plains. Then, he turned to me, his face wide open in amazement, and said, "Mom, sometimes I wonder ... about all this ...." He made a sweeping gesture to the expanse of mountains. "It's just that ... this life ... it seems like such a lucky chance."

While on top of Middle Bald, my son discovered the vastness of the universe and a profound appreciation for his short time on this earth.

I can't imagine a child coming to the same conclusion while looking at a 60-foot tall metal tower.

My family has purposefully chosen to live in a rural community that values natural beauty and open land over the conveniences of town.

We know our safety isn't guaranteed, but that's a risk we're willing to take. The Baldies are an essential part of our home; the proposed tower on Middle Bald Mountain is not.

From: Reghan C Cloudman  
[rcloudman@fs.fed.us]  
Sent: Friday, January 26,  
2007 10:25 AM  
To: Carol Kruse; Ellen Hodges; Susan Greenley; jbutts@mangi.com;  
larimercounty@mangi.com  
Subject: Letter to the Editor

Here is another letter to the editor from the Coloradoan...

Article published Jan 26, 2007  
Safety should come first  
Jim Schroeder

Recently we have seen several selfish, NIMBY-type letters voicing opposition to the proposed radio tower on Bald Mountain. These people are putting themselves above the good of those who live in, or travel through the Upper Poudre Canyon. The need for the tower is great; at the present time, radio communications needed in emergency situations are intermittent at best.

The canyon has been designated as a Scenic Byway and is receiving increased highway traffic because of this designation every year. Many of these people are visitors to the area and are not experienced mountain drivers. The traffic accident count and emergency response has increased and will continue in the future.

Emergency communications are vital to the safety of not only residents, but also the thousands of travelers. To put ones self above this need because the tower wouldn't be pretty is truly selfish.

Jim Schroeder,  
Upper Poudre Canyon resident