



April 2, 2023

Routt County Commissioners,

It was only 2 days ago, on March 30, 2023 that many of us in our North Routt community received news of the Snowmobile operation proposal for the Quealy Area and that the County Planning Dept. are possibly going to approve this proposal within days on April 6th.

I believe that all parties need to take into consideration that travel management decisions in North Routt are a community discussion. Many of us have been working on these issues for at least 20 years, including the North Routt Snow Riders, The Friends of the Routt Backcountry, many community members, residents, diverse user groups, the State Parks, the USFS, Routt County.

It is through this collaboration that we have collectively created the North Routt Parking Plan, The Quealy Trail, preservation of sensitive wetlands in this Quealy area, Eagle and sandhill crane breeding grounds, historic buildings, The Hahns Peak Area Historical Society (est. 1975), new snowmobile parking areas, a suggested-use non-motorized area on Hahns Peak and many more.

This proposal of a snowmobile business is extremely impactful in many ways, not only for residential impacts, but impacts on travel mangement issues in North Routt, wildlife concerns, and noise.

I am appalled that no one was consulted until now on this proposal. We ask for at least 8 weeks to examine this proposal among residents, businesses, org's etc.

Sincerely,

Leslie Lovejoy

Friends of the Routt Backcountry/North Routt resident
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John Spezia
Diane Brower
Carol Fisher
Mark Ensner
Shirley Stocks

Jim Hicks
Richard Galusha
Louise and Emmett Stafford

"Thank you for getting this information out to us. We had heard nothing, not even a whisper, of this plan. The alteration it would bring to the quiet rural Hahns Peak basin and to the Quaelly parcel, which so beautifully enhances Steamboat Lake State Park, definitely requires more explanation and public input. Please add our names to the letter you are submitting to request at least an 8-week delay before the Board of County Commissioners makes its final decision on the proposal."

Bryan and Ann Hesselbach

Rocky Smith

"I have reviewed the proposal you sent me concerning the proposed change in PUD. The problems with this proposal are well detailed in the "Bullet Points" doc you sent, and also in the concerns of landowner Ty Lockhart, expressed by his lawyer, at pp. 22-27 of the document detailing the requested change in the PUD.

One impact would be that the outfitter's use would move from the west side to the east side of Rd. 129, is that correct? If so, that means that there would be more winter motorized use on national forest trails, or at least that use would be in an area that now sees little motorized use. The new location of the outfitter's use would affect your use of non-motorized trails. Is that right? If so, it is plenty good enough reason for delay to consider the impacts of the proposal.

Since impacts would either increase, or be transferred to a new area, it might not comply with some of the County regulations, as motorized and non-motorized users are supposed to be separated. (See p. 6 of the PUD doc.) And the Forest Service should be concerned about the new impacts and should provide input to the County.

Another reason for delay is the following from the staff: "The potential impacts of the relocation of the operations on neighboring parcels are not fully understandable, as a clear operating plan has not been submitted...". (p. 7 of the PUD doc)

The issue of speed - snowmobiles need to go faster than 25 MPH to cool down? That sounds bogus. In any case, machines going that speed are not safe on any trail or in any area with non-motorized users present.

On the issue of notice of the proposal, the letter by Lockhart's lawyer states that Lockhart was notified, but that the notice may have been improper. If so, then the lack of notice to everyone else is even more glaring.

In sum, there are lots of arguments for delaying, if not denying, the proposed change.

Rocky Smith"

Marge Eardley

Katie and DJ Bessey

Scott and Michelle Denniston

Victor Washburn

Jeff and Zoe Finnof

Please add my name to your letter. I am opposed to the proposed snow mobile operations being moved to the Quealy site. My primary concerns are the impacts to the wetlands, sandhill crane habitat, historic buildings, and the disruption to the natural setting of the meadow. I am also upset by the negative visual impact from the visibility of a vault toilet and the enormous and ugly metal building. In addition to these potential "permanent" impacts that will be visible year round, I am opposed to the increase in noise and odors that I will hear and smell from my home in Hahns Peak Village or while I am recreating on the Non-Motorized Poverty Bar Trail.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Murphy

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