



P.O. Box 773598  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477  

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[www.co.routt.co.us](http://www.co.routt.co.us)

Timothy V. Corrigan  
District I

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District III

October 1, 2019

Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District  
Attention: Buffalo Pass Road Reconstruction Project  
925 Weiss Drive  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

RE: Buffalo Pass Road Reconstruction Project

Dear Mr. Voos:

On behalf of Routt County, I am writing to express support for the Buffalo Pass Reconstruction Project. The current condition of the road does not comply with Routt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) due to the deterioration of the road surface. This causes erosion and water quality issues from the sediment entering the nearby stream systems, and the roads lack of aggregate surfacing leads to excessive air pollution through travel dust. The road is also within the Steamboat Air shed, which is included in the state's air quality non-attainment zone because of Particulate Matter suspension in the air. Current issues with the roadway also include lack of access for emergency vehicles, lack of turnouts and/or narrow road, and outdated road safety signage.

The Buffalo Pass area is one of the closest National Forest accesses from Steamboat Springs and provides abundant year-round recreation that includes skiing, hiking, biking, camping, and fishing; as well as serving as a byway over the Park Range and Continental Divide. It provides access to reservoirs, trailheads, campgrounds, power lines, and a multitude of other activities in the area. The project will bring NFSR 60 up to standards by improvements to road surfacing, drainage, signage, and establishment of a minimum roadway width. The reduction in erosion will help improve water and air quality in the area. The proposal also addresses potential adverse effects of increased dispersed camping from the road improvement by redesigning or closing areas of overuse to allow for vegetation recovery. The plans to expand the Dry Lake Campground will help to provide well managed camping in the area.

Routt County strongly recommends this project because it will improve user comfort, traveler safety, and access to a multitude of recreation opportunities. It will also protect the natural resources in the area for generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

M. Elizabeth Melton, Chair