

**Off Highway Vehicle Conference Call**  
**December 18, 2018 3:00 p.m.**

Present on the call: Marlene Crosby, Gunnison County; Chris Cox, Crystal property owner; Shelley Grail, Forest Service; Mark Mykol, Gunnison County Undersheriff; Ryan Vinciguerra, Marble Mayor; John Groves, CPW; Ron Leach, Marble Town Administrator; Terry Langley, Marble (notes).

Ron began with reminding that limiting access to the LKL area by the Forest Service would be several years of planning and study. We began to look at the options of doing this through the county and/or the town. Shelley said that this was much bigger than simply a FS issue and that other groups can work through this faster & easier. Ron reported that Karen Schroyer, District Ranger for WRNF will be on the Jan conference call – Jan. 15, 3 p.m. On the previous call, they talked about where to start and documenting the impacts would be the place to start.

Looking at the list of impacts, Marlene mentioned the number of emergency calls as well as the cost of maintaining the road that is torn up by OHVs. = Shelley said that we needed to come up with a vision of what we want the future to look like (some OHVs, no OHVs?) Marlene suggested coming up with several options and seeing which has the most support. Ron said it is not all negative, particularly as seen as by the business community. Marble, Crested Butte and Crystal all have businesses impacted by traffic on the LKL. Chris said that he feels that Marble & Crystal would be the most impacted by limiting OHV. Marlene feels that the towns of Gothic & Schofield would support limiting use of the LKL. Ron asked Mark to review law enforcement calls to the LKL. Mark said he would make a list for the next meeting. He hopes to schedule one officer in Marble daily from May – October 2019. For the 2020 budget, he will put in for a second officer for the north part of the county, including Marble. Ryan thanked Mark for the increased presence in 2018. Chris asked if they would go any farther than Marble. Mark said they would try to go to Crystal once a week. Shelley asked if there was any desire to not allow OHVs on town or county roads or is that too extreme? Marlene reported that from the town limits to Daniel's Hill is the only county road

that they are allowed in. With no parking, it is hard to shut down the link between the town and the LKL. Ryan said that the mood in Marble seems to be shifting more toward a ban due to noise and other issues but nothing formal has been done. Ryan asked about options for limiting use – a staffed booth, Would the FS be open to that? Shelley said that more background, determination of purpose & need and public input would be needed. Ryan asked if there was a process that could be followed. Shelley – Hanging Lake and Maroon Bells/Conundrum Hot Springs are documented and might be helpful. They can be found on the FS webpage under planning.

Ron asked about traffic counts, cost of mag chloriding, Marlene reported that the Forest Service maintains the LKL. The county did apply mag chloride around Beaver Lake and in Crystal. It lasted 2 weeks at a cost of \$2,000. They are trying to keep roads safe, not necessarily improved. Pull outs that allow traffic to get off the road and others to pass are eliminated when people park there. No parking/Safety Zone/Tow sign are a possibility. Chris: Lesser of evils to have signage rather than parking. Erosion along the cliff edges will leave the road so narrow that only OHVs will be able to get up there. Safety issues involved. Marlene suggest adding environmental damage to the impact list. Ron will also work with Mark to count numbers of helicopter rescues and number of cars going off/over the edge. Marlene asked how many times people are in accidents that are not reported but are rescued by friends or Good Samaritans – include language that these are known events. The estimate is that there are three times more than are reported.

Marlene asked Shelley what the FS would be looking at in terms of environmental impact. She said erosion (soil, vegetation, erosion) water crossings, air quality, water shed, wildlife impacts, social impact (noise). Chris asked Shelley if it is a law or requirement on FS roads that OHV users stay on the road. Shelley said that they can go a certain distance off of the road for certain uses (dispersed camping for example).

OHV – anything without a license plate (ATVs, Razors) . Chris said that it is often safer for him to go in and out on an OHV than, say a truck. Shelley- Pitkin Co commissioners would like to get together with Gunnison since many of the roads

cross into both counties. Shelley said that Pitkin Co funded a FS seasonal employee to provide an educational presence. For 2019, they will fund two. This year there will be more enforcement. Chris said that he feels enforcement would pay for itself. Razors and motorcycles are the biggest problem, in his opinion. Mark suggests allowing specific types only. FS travel management plan says LKL is open to all motorized vehicles and so a change would mean a public process and amendment to the TMP. Marlene asked what percentage was Razors. Chris says it is changing every year and is up to 50% and growing. Chris says that his land has a proscriptive easement and he could prohibit parking as it only allows for passing through. He put up signage and none were defaced. He feels that it is helping. Shelley said that putting American flags on the sign helps keep them from being defaced.

Ryan asked about the North Star preserve in terms of limiting usage and what situations are similar to that we are facing on LKL. Pitkin Co is again, funding a seasonal worker. Enforcement is done by Pitkin, FS, Open Spaces and ACEs (educational) and violations have dropped dramatically. For 2019 she has no \$ and no seasonal employees for dispersed recreation. She estimated the cost for enforcement personnel to be \$20000-25000 per person per year. Eagle & Pitkin are funding about 11.

Marlene will try to arrange a meeting between the two counties. She suggests the several entities pool funds for an enforcement person.

John Groves, CPW, said that the issue is larger than OHVs. Marble's infrastructure cannot handle the numbers that are coming. There are state OHV trails enforcement personnel that might be able to come on specific weekends. There are grants through that program. All OHVers have to get a sticker for \$25 and that funds the grants. A permit system can also impact hunting, depending on the time frame for the permits. Marlene suggested having a hunting permit come with a loop permit as a way to address that. Chris said that Sept numbers were higher than other months.

Call ended 4:15 p.m.