

Sandy Hines

From: Kristie Borchers
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 4:11 PM
To: Sandy Hines
Subject: Fwd: HWY 149 pilot program

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Scott Burian <cometchero@gmail.com>
Date: October 29, 2020 at 12:04:20 PM MDT
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Kristie Borchers <district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>
Subject: HWY 149 pilot program

My name is Scott Burian. I am a business owner in Lake City, Colorado and I am writing in regards to the OHV pilot program on highway 149 in the town of Lake City. I would like to express my full support for allowing OHVs on this short stretch of state highway in our town. Lake City is in unique situation. We have a number of mining roads which allow access to spectacular mountain back country the most popular being the Alpine Loop. This 68 mile loop takes you over 2 mountain passes at almost 13000 feet and requires 4 wheel drive to access most of it. It also requires the use of several miles of HWY 149 to complete it. My wife Tina and I have a Convenience store / gift shop in town as well as 8 historic cabins for rent so we deal with many of the visitors to our town on a daily basis. I can tell you that completing the Alpine Loop is the highlight of most visitors vacation. We see many people enjoying our back country who would not be able to access it without some type of OHV. There are entire families joining in on this from toddlers to grandmothers even the dog! Modern OHVS are much more comfortable and fun than trying it in a Jeep. In the 13+ years we have been in business we have seen how this activity is a positive impact on our local economy which relies on summer tourism only. In that time period our town has voted on whether to allow OHVS on the roads in town twice. The ordinance has passed both times, the last time in 2019 by a 2/3rd majority. I know you have heard a lot of negative opinions on this matter but I hope you realize that this is a small but very loud group of people who have been fighting against OHVS for many years even though they are a tiny minority. Please be aware that most people in this town are in support of having the highway open as well as the rest of the town. OHVS will still be allowed in town regardless of whether the highway is open or not. It would however close the loop to completion as well as closing access to many residents. Please consider keeping this stretch of highway open to our visitors and residents to keep our access to the back country and allow our community to thrive and keep visitors coming to our beautiful mountains. Thank you, Scott Burian

Sandy Hines

From: Kristie Borchers
Sent: Sunday, November 1, 2020 10:24 AM
To: Sandy Hines
Subject: Fw: OHV usage

Kristie Borchers
Hinsdale County Commissioner
PO Box 277
Lake City, CO 81235
district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us
970-596-9071



From: lori burk <lbburk@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 1, 2020 9:44 AM
To: zane.znamenacek@state.co.us <zane.znamenacek@state.co.us>; district1@hinsdalecountycolorado.us <district1@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>; Kristie Borchers <district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>; Sara Gutterman <district3@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>; chamber@lakecity.com <chamber@lakecity.com>; brucevierheller@townoflakecity.co <brucevierheller@townoflakecity.co>; daveroberts@townoflakecity.co <daveroberts@townoflakecity.co>; michellemartin@townoflakecity.co <michellemartin@townoflakecity.co>; doughamel@townoflakecity.co <doughamel@townoflakecity.co>; jessekendall2187@gmail.com <jessekendall2187@gmail.com>
Subject: OHV usage

We are new homeowners in Lake City. We enjoyed the pilot program that allowed the use of OHV's to drive on Hwy149 and was part of the reason for moving here. It allows easy access to the Alpine Loop and other points of interest. I also think it helps the economy of our town when visitors come for the scenic routes. Please take this request for consideration. Thank you.

Lori Burk

243 Morningside Dr
Lake City, Co 81235

Sandy Hines

From: Kristie Borchers
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 8:00 PM
To: Sandy Hines; Susan Thompson; Sara Gutterman
Subject: Fw: Lake City OHV pilot program

Kristie Borchers
Hinsdale County Commissioner
PO Box 277
Lake City, CO 81235
district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us
970-596-9071



From: Kristine Borchers <kristineborchers@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 7:58 PM
To: Kristie Borchers <district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>
Subject: Fw: Lake City OHV pilot program

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Thomas Carl <tcat232@gmail.com>
To: Kristine Borchers <kristineborchers@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020, 7:47:24 PM MDT
Subject: Fwd: Lake City OHV pilot program

I sent this to Zane,
Tom

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Thomas Carl <tcat232@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 26, 2020 at 6:25 PM
Subject: Lake City OHV pilot program
To: <zane.znamenacek@state.co.us>

Zane,
Thanks for your putting up with small town politics and working through this for our community.
I believe it has helped our way of life and helped with downtown parking problems, the trucks and trailers are not spread everywhere, if you have a home or cabin the day starts there instead of moving around with 2 vehicles.
As a life long resident I am in favor of extending the pilot program.

Thomas Carl
9705963017
tcat232@gmail.com
Lake City CO

Doug Carlson <texasdoug99@gmail.com>
Tuesday, October 27, 2020 3:14 PM
Susan Thompson; Kristie Borchers; Sara Gutterman; Sandy Hines;
~~[REDACTED]~~
~~[REDACTED]~~
~~[REDACTED]~~
douhamel@townofhaverhill.com; jasonmingsworth@townofhaverhill.com;
jasonmingsworth@townofhaverhill.com; sarahgutterman@townofhaverhill.com

1

Dear Mr. Znamenacek,

I wanted to send you a short email to express how happy I am with the CO149 Pilot Program. I have seen the great successes that it has provided Lake City and Hinsdale County. The program, since it was put into effect in 2018, has been nothing short of phenomenal.

It has grown tourism over the past 3 years and has really helped our businesses survive in this small mountain town. In fact, this year tourism is at an all-time high and our businesses have achieved record sales. It has also helped tax revenues hit record highs. Even with the COVID-19, Hinsdale County and Lake City have had a great 2020.

This growth has come with a few pains, but our wonderful County Commissioners and the Lake City Board of Trustees are aware of these growing pains and are planning to help ease them.

As a second home owner and a Family that loves Lake City, I urge you to please extend the CO149 Pilot Program for 3 more years and for it to be year round.

Thank you for reading my email and my concern for the businesses and tourism of Lake City and Hinsdale County.

Best Regards,

Doug Carlson
Vickers Horse River Ranch
Lake City, CO. 81235
214-502-9866

Ann McCord

From: Sandy Hines
t: Sunday, November 8, 2020 10:27 PM
To: Ann McCord
Subject: FW: OHV Pilot Program

Sandy Hines

- County Administrator
- Public Information Officer
970-944-2225



From: Doug Carlson <texasdoug99@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 7:31 AM
To: Sandy Hines <administrator@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>
Subject: OHV Pilot Program

Hello to Kristie and the 2 new Commissioners, I have not heard the results yet, and the Lake City Board of Trustees,

Below are 2 emails that I sent in October. I wanted to send them again for the record.

I strongly support continuing the OHV 149 Pilot Program for years to come. In fact I would love to see it become permeant. To rehash the same complaints year after year seems very counterproductive. I fully understand the concerns and support, in part, steps to help minimize them. One of those steps is not to discontinue the wonderful 149 Pilot Program.

Steps: Put in place an A-Z Education Program for everyone to understand and follow. Make a part of the education a set of rules and regulations that have consequences if they are not followed. Have a pass out for everyone that outlines these rules and regulations. Take a lesson from Silverton and put in place barrels that have signs on them that clearly show the approved route.

Charge a fee: A fee should be charged per unit, to take the Loop. It could be a day pass, weekly pass or even an annual pass. As discussed below a partnership can be formed with San Juan County to collect these fees and share in the income. The revenue would be used to fund additional Rangers, additional rest room stops, educational material, additional personal and even road repairs on CR 20-30. The revenue could be used in so many ways that help improve Hinsdale County and Lake City.

So in conclusion: I strongly support continuing the 149 Pilot Program

Carlson Cabin
Vickers Horse River Ranch
219 Gnome Way
Unit 9
Lake City, CO. 81235
214-502-9866

Greetings to Susan, Kristie, Sara, Bruce, Michelle, Richard, Dave, Doug, Jud, Jesse, and Caroline,

Below is an email I sent to many Colorado State Officials. Mr. Znamenacek was just the first on my list, and I wanted you to be aware of what I sent them. I know many of you and some I have not had the pleasure to personally meet, yet. My Family and I have been coming to Lake City for 18 years. We love Lake City and Hinsdale County. Grant does a great job keeping me up to date on what is going on in Lake City and Hinsdale County.

I am pro-business, having run a small business for over 50 years. I know the struggles a small business goes thru just to survive. I know that there are 2 sides to every issue, having managed over 50 wonderful diverse employees. I understand the beautiful and fragile environment that surrounds Lake City and Hinsdale County. I believe that Lake City has been discovered and is here to stay just as OHV's. I also know that some issues can hurt and divide a community, you also know this is true. I would like to set aside these issues and focus on opportunities or a few ideas.

The Alpine Outdoor Association, I believe is the name, did a great job on education this year. More, much more of this will go a long way in educating the tourists/visitors on what the rules are, what is excepted of them and how they must act.

The Alpine Loop is very special.... why not charge for it? Let's just say it is \$20.00 a unit, meaning a jeep, OHV, motorcycle, car, truck etc. per day. There could be a weekly or even an annual pass at a different fee. This in turn funds the additional rangers, the additional needed rest room stops (American Basin etc.), the education material, the daily, weekly, annual pass tickets. Purchase tickets or check points could be the trail heads of Engineer and Cinnamon, Animas Forks and Silverton trail head. Hinsdale and San Juan Counties form a partnership and split the money. I forget the record number of units that traveled the Loop this year, but it would mean millions of dollars in revenue.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to the spring of 2021 to come to the mountains again.

Best Regards,

Carlson Cabin
Vickers Horse River Ranch
219 Gnome Way
Unit 9
Lake City, CO. 81235

Dear Mr. Znamenacek,

I wanted to send you a short email to express how happy I am with the CO149 Pilot Program. I have seen the great successes that it has provided Lake City and Hinsdale County. The program, since it was put into effect in 2018, has been nothing short of phenomenal.

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As a second home owner and a Family that loves Lake City, I urge you to please extend the CO149 Pilot Program for 3 more years and for it to be year round.

Thank you for reading my email and my concern for the businesses and tourism of Lake City and Hinsdale County.

Best Regards,

Doug Carlson
Vickers Horse River Ranch
Lake City, CO. 81235
214-502-9866

Sandy Hines

From: J C <judichamberlin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 6:55 PM
To: Susan Thompson; Kristie Borchers; Sara Gutterman; Sandy Hines; Mayor Bruce Vierheller; Trustee Michelle Martin; Trustee Dave Roberts; Trustee Doug Hamel; Trustee Jud Hollingsworth; Trustee Jesse Kendall; Town Manager Caroline Mitchell
Subject: Terminate the CO149 Pilot Program

Dear Madams and Sirs:

As a resident of Ouray County and a frequent visitor to Hinsdale County, I am writing to say that I am very much against OHVs operating on Colorado State Highways. I am against expanding the CO149 Pilot Program, and I actually desire to see the CO149 Pilot Program terminated.

I am very upset by the damage we are seeing in the backcountry in my county and yours as more and more people flee cities all over the nation and flood into our beautiful area. Cancelling the program will not only help protect our wilderness areas but will also bring a greater level of safety to your community and CO149 (for residents and visitors like me).

Sincerely yours,

Judith Chamberlin
Ridgway, CO

From: David Cherry <dcherry@haleyolson.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 2:17 PM
To: Susan Thompson; Kristie Borchers; Sara Gutterman; Bruce Vierheller (brucevierheller@townoflakecity.co); [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
jessakendall@townoflakecity.co; nathanielmartin@townoflakecity.co
Cc: Caroline Mitchell; Sandy Wilson; [REDACTED] - CDO,
Zachary Garrison; [REDACTED] Commissioner Hall@state.gov;
HumanStockinger@state.gov; jenniferhallen@state.gov;
[REDACTED]@state.gov; [REDACTED]@state.gov; [REDACTED]@state.co.
Sandra L. Gibbs, James, GOVERNOR Bill Winters, Jeff Remy, Barbara Mahan
Subject: Hwy. 149 Pilot Program

Historical Perspective: My family has vacationed in Lake City since the mid-1980's. We've owned a second home and other property here since 2002. We have financially, and through hands-on work, supported many local efforts, including but not limited to the Medical Center, Museum, Arts Council, Pioneer Jubilee Women's Club, renovation and addition to the Armory and town hall, Trails Commission, and our local church.

Funding the Sheriff: Please fund our Sheriff so we have an adequately staffed department and the best financed, trained and equipped Sheriff's office in our corner of the state. To do otherwise continues to put all of us at risk, not only from increased traffic conflicts, but from other conflicts and crimes. Visibility is a strong deterrent to all forms of improper conduct. We need and are entitled to more "boots on the ground" in town, on Hwy. 149 and Co. Roads 20 & 30.

Ask CDOT for funding help for our Sheriff and for road maintenance. It appears that CDOT approved the program without asking enough of the right questions, particularly regarding budget issues, of those former public officials who initiated and pushed the program.

State Patrol: Please ask CSP to increase patrols & presence on Hwy. 149. Our Sheriff needs the support and the community would appreciate the

additional presence which will result in decreased speeding and other violations on Hwy. 149.

OHV/Increased Traffic Issues: The experience of the last two (2) years with increased traffic on the loop, in town, and on Hwy. 149 has been disappointing at best. In our area on Pine, we contend with excessive noise from OHV's (and some motorcycles) here and on Hwy. 149 (yes, we hear it up here), dust, speeding, and joyriding the hill between 5th & 6th as if it were a carnival ride. The question is what can you do to remedy the situation short of not renewing what was the Pilot Program? From my perspective, you can't and the only solution is to not allow access to Hwy. 149, crossing or otherwise, including the former Pilot Program. If you can find a way to control speed, noise, reckless driving, and damage to our roads, I would be open to OHV's. Some have said that OHV's are the "new" Jeep. I've never heard a Jeep make the noise we hear from OHV's and I've not experienced the degree of improper behavior involving Jeeps as with OHV's.

Community Solutions: Support any effort made to review our situation and seek, through community input, positive ways to control and influence the influx of tourists. It costs nothing to support those who seek to help. They will either succeed or fail. Those who decry these efforts must fear the possible results. The late night disturbance at the Elk Horn RV park this past summer is the first such that I recall reading in any Sheriff's report. This type of activity will cause Lake City to receive a bad reputation, if it continues, and that hurts all of us. The community needs to find a way to help prevent a recurrence at any location.

Sales Tax: Carefully analyze all claims (including mine below) made regarding sales tax revenue. The receipt of "non-physical" sales tax revenue beginning in October of 2019 can, and has, caused some to think that the influx of OHV's and other visitors greatly increased local sales tax revenue. Based on my review of the limited data available, July 2020 experienced an 8.727% increase in "physical" (local) receipts over July 2019 but August 2020 receipts from "physical" (local sales) **decreased** 7.500% from August 2019. Hopefully Mrs. McNitt will be able to provide you with the data and calculations going back through October of 2019 to determine the month over month and year over year comparison of "physical" (local) sales tax receipts so you and the public can accurately gauge growth.

Safety: Last year I wrote to your bodies about safety and will not repeat all the points made. I believe OHV's are inherently unsafe. I'll be happy to talk with any of you and provide information and insight as to the safety issues. Below is from the 2021 Polaris Owner's manual, with emphasis supplied:

“• Avoid paved surfaces....

OPERATING ON PAVEMENT

This vehicle's tires are designed for off-road use, not for use on pavement. Operating this vehicle on paved surfaces (including sidewalks, paths, parking lots and driveways) may adversely affect the handling of the vehicle and may increase the risk of loss of control and accident or rollover. **Avoid operating the vehicle on pavement. If it's unavoidable, travel slowly, travel short distances and avoid sudden turns or stops.”**

Public Awareness & Input: To quote a national news organization “Democracy Dies in Darkness” please post on your web sites all data and communications you are provided to review as you work through the Pilot Program issues, and provide the public with the opportunity to comment. Please have all meetings as official bodies and those where any state or national representative is to speak regarding any issue touching on the Pilot Program, open to the public via Zoom. Please provide at least seven (7) days prior notice so the public has adequate time to adjust schedules to attend.

Thank you for considering my comments.

David E. Cherry

Of Counsel

Haley & Olson, P.C.

100 N. Ritchie Rd.

Suite 200

Waco, Texas 76712

(T)254-776-3336

(F)254-776-6823

Email: dcherry@haleyolson.com

www.haleyolson.com

Sandy Hines

From: Kristie Borchers
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 11:18 AM
To: Sandy Hines
Subject: Fw: OHV use in Lake City

Kristie Borchers
Hinsdale County Commissioner
PO Box 277
Lake City, CO 81235
district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us
970-596-9071



From: Shalane Choate <shalane.choate@outlook.com>

Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 10:48 AM

[illegible]

Subject: OHV use in Lake City

Dear Sir/Madam:

We are writing in support of extending the State's pilot program for OHV use on Hwy 149 for another 3-5 years.

We are homeowners in Lake City. Four generations of our family have enjoyed Hinsdale County and the surrounding areas since the 1960s. We own OHVs and have welcomed the ability to drive on Hwy 149 to get to town, the Alpine Loop, and other scenic drives without having to trailer them. The use of trailers is a challenge and deterrent to OHV use. As our family's elder generations age, their (our!) activities are slowly shifting to things more suited to their capabilities. OHV use has been a wonderful option that allows them to continue to enjoy their time Lake City, Hinsdale County, and the Alpine Loop and more importantly, it's something that three generations can enjoy TOGETHER, OUTDOORS. Again, the use of trailers is a hinderance -- especially for our elder generations.

Driving OHVs into town allows us to stop into local businesses on our way to/from other destinations. We often stop for supplies in the mornings and usually have a meal in town on our way home. Because we typically ride as a multi-generational group, the meals in town allow are usually 8+ people. We truly value the

local businesses and try to support them as much as possible; OHV use on Hwy 149 facilitates that support. Trailing OHVs is a hinderance to that support as they're difficult to maneuver and park in town.

As part of the extension of this pilot program, we would also like to **request expansion to the north end of town to Elk Road and to Woodlake Park on the south end** to allow more residents and visitors the opportunity to utilize the program.

In closing, we would like to thank you for your role in this program's success. We firmly believe it has been a benefit to Lake City and the community.

To the Lake City Board of Trustees, Hinsdale County Commissioners, and Lake City Chamber of Commerce, we also extend our sincerest gratitude to you for your role in making Lake City the very special place that it is. Our family has made lasting memories for four generations, and we look forward to many more.

Sincerely,
Shalane & Chris Choate
214-564-9311

From: anne christian <annechristian@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 2:25 PM
To: Susan Thompson; Kristie Borchers; Sara Gutterman; Sandy Hines; [redacted]; [redacted]; daveroberts@townoflakota.co; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: CDOT CO149 Pilot Program Feedback

Dear County Commissioners and Town Trustees,

I am writing to express my concern with the CO149 Pilot Program in Lake City and Hinsdale County. I am a year-round resident and business owner who works and lives just one block off CO149, in our town's historic district. You may have already seen my letter expressing concern to CDOT officials which focused on safety and a strained local law enforcement response related to the Pilot Program this past summer. Now turning to you, my local elected officials, I would like to share additional points that I hope will be considered before you make your decision.

Sustainable economic growth for our community -

While our surrounding public lands may seem vast and limitless, they are finite. Similarly, town and county resources allocated for law enforcement and road maintenance are limited. OHVs require a large footprint of resources and space both in town and in the backcountry. This ultimately reduces the number of visitors we can accommodate while maintaining a semblance of order and a positive experience for them. Many other forms of recreation are far less taxing on our resources, allowing us to attract a much greater volume of visitors going forward. Why would we make special accommodations (ie the CO149 Pilot Program) to chase a tourist group that strains our municipal and natural resources when we could instead diversify, building a stronger and less costly tourist base that allows our community to enjoy greater prosperity in the future?

Planning ahead for future generations -

I believe it is possible to pass down to the next generation a model for a thriving local economy and sustainably managed public lands. I ask you to consider the following with that in mind: Continuing and expanding the Pilot Program could attract countless more OHV tourists year after year, is that what we want? What will that look like 20 years from now? How will our town be shaped by such a thing? What will the quality of life be for local families? Will it create better job options for year-round residents? Will it lend to more affordable housing? How will our public lands fare? Is our desperation to make a quick buck off of OHV tourism in the present clouding our judgement? Will the OHV obsession of a few be allowed to rob from younger generations the quintessential mountain town beauty we have enjoyed? Are we placing a burden on younger generations to manage, reverse and remediate decisions we put in place now? I urge you to use your voice and position to ensure the long-term health of our community and to protect its natural beauty for those who come after us.

In closing, I strongly advocate for the Pilot Program to be cancelled and recommend that we pivot to leverage our resources responsibly to the benefit of all in our community, both now and in the future.


 ne Christian
 508 N Silver St
 PO Box 700

From: Kristie Borchers
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 4:07 PM
To: Sandy Hines
Subject: Fwd: State Highway 149 OHV Pilot Program in Lake City Colorado

From: Kristie Borchers
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 4:07 PM
To: Sandy Hines
Subject: Fwd: State Highway 149 OHV Pilot Program in Lake City Colorado

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Paul Clauss <pandcc3@aol.com>
Date: October 29, 2020 at 11:17:07 AM MDT
To: "Susan Thompson" <district1@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>, Kristie Borchers <district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>, Sara Gutterman <district3@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>, "chamber@lakecity.com" <chamber@lakecity.com>, "jud.hollingsworth@lakecity.co" <jud.hollingsworth@lakecity.co>, "joshua.madsen@lakecity.co" <joshua.madsen@lakecity.co>, "advertising@lakecity.co" <advertising@lakecity.co>, "marci.hall@lakecity.co" <marci.hall@lakecity.co>, "doug.hall@lakecity.co" <doug.hall@lakecity.co>
Subject: State Highway 149 OHV Pilot Program in Lake City Colorado
Reply-To: Paul Clauss <pandcc3@aol.com>

To All Concerned.

We are full time residents and homeowners in Lake City, Colorado. We have seen the many benefits of allowing OHV's limited access to State Highway 149 in Lake City and for short stretches north and south of town by way of State's Pilot Program. The primary visitor attraction to Lake City is the Alpine loop and other scenic 4 wheel drive roads connected to this route. Visitors link the Lake City - Silverton - Ouray triangle via these roads. Without access to this small section of highway 149 it is impossible for visitors driving OHV's arriving from Silverton, Ouray or anywhere west of Lake City to complete this loop. They would be forced to back track the way they came in and miss a large portion of these scenic routes. Even visitors originating in Lake City and traveling the loop around to these other destination would be forced to pre-stage a trailer and tow vehicle at one end and trailer the few miles to complete the loop and return to Lake City.

With the Pilot program in place, the 2020 tourist season appeared to be the most successful we have ever witnessed. Local business's had an excellent year, and this was in spite of the Covid pandemic sweeping the country. This increase in tourism was undeniably driven by OHV owners. I am sure the tax revenues generated in 2020 YTD were up substantially. This Pilot Program was instrumental in this increase in tourism.

We strongly recommend the Pilot Program be extended for several more years. We also recommend the Pilot Program be extended 1/4 mile south on highway 149 to Woodland RV Park and 1 mile North to Elk Road.

Sincerely,

Paul and Carole Clauss
1963 San Juan Springs Rd.
Lake City, Colorado

I/we are requesting the extension of the pilot program for another 3-5 years with possible expansion to include use of HWY 149 to Woodlake Park on the South Side and to the car wash or Elk Road on the North end. These extensions allow residents and visitors of Lake City to access both access points to the Alpine Loop without having to own, use and store trailers.

Sandy Hines

From: Bhatt <bhattlex@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 1, 2020 11:15 AM
To: Susan Thompson; Kristie Borchers; Sara Gutterman; Sandy Hines;
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
Subject: CO149 Program Renewal

Dear Commissioners and Trustees,

I am writing on behalf of the approximately 100,000 Coloradans who are members of the Sierra Club. In existence for over 125 years, Sierra Club members are present in nearly every district and state across the country. From securing protection for 439 parks and monuments, to addressing unprecedented levels of pollution and powerful special interests, the Sierra Club serves to protect everyone's right to a healthy world.

It has come to our attention that the CO149 Pilot Program is up for renewal. We are writing to voice our concern for the damage that the current program has promulgated and our support for protections to mitigate the impacts that have resulted from unmanaged recreation.

Sierra Club members in the area inform us the Pilot Program has led to a dramatic increase in vehicular traffic on the Alpine Loop which has led to negative environmental impacts. Our members cite BLM numbers that indicate traffic nearly doubled during the 2020 tourist season.

This rapid and unmanaged traffic increase has led to the degradation of human and wildlife habitat. Fragile alpine tundra habitat in the San Juan Mountains has been damaged, Hinsdale County roads have experienced intensified damage and erosion, the Alpine loop has seen increased trash and human waste and degradation of disbursed camping areas, and ecosystems in the American Basin have been damaged by uncontrolled overuse and abuse.

The Sierra Club serves to create healthy environments and just communities. Our members fear the continued CO149 Pilot Program will only further the degradation of this beautiful and ecologically significant environment surrounding Lake City, Hinsdale County. Continued unmanaged vehicular use is jeopardizing the backcountry wilderness experience and ecosystem health along the Alpine Loop.

We encourage you to not renew the CO149 Pilot Program until management measures are in place that adequately protect these areas and restore the damage that has already occurred. These measures should serve to protect both the human community and the ecological systems upon which we depend for clean air, clean water, and recreation.

Sincerely,
Ramesh Bhatt
Chair, Conservation Committee Colorado Sierra Club
36 Wynkoop St #200, Denver, CO 80202

Sandy Hines

From: Kristie Borchers
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 11:48 AM
To: Sandy Hines
Subject: Fw: Extension of pilot program •

Kristie Borchers
Hinsdale County Commissioner
PO Box 277
Lake City, CO 81235
district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us
970-596-9071



From: larry conley <lconley56@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 11:26 AM
To: Kristie Borchers <district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>
Subject: Extension of pilot program

I have visited Lake City at least annually the last few years and have really enjoyed it. There is so many beautiful areas such as Cinnamon and Engineer Pass. During these visits I have used OHVs and have welcomed the flexibility to drive on HWY 149 that has been provided by the State's Pilot Program. I am requesting the extension of the pilot program for another 3 to 5 years with possible expansion including HWY 149 to Woodlake Park on the South side and to the Car Wash or Elk Road on the North end. These extensions allows visitors like me to access both ends of the Alpine Loop without the use of trailers and tow vehicles.

Thanks for listening,

Larry Conley
817-312-6021
Lconley56@hotmail.com

Sandy Hines

From: Kristie Borchers
Sent: Sunday, November 1, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Sandy Hines
Subject: Fw: Hinsdale County HWY 149 Pilot Program Continuation

Kristie Borchers
Hinsdale County Commissioner
PO Box 277
Lake City, CO 81235
district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us
970-596-9071



From: Hugh Conway <hconway@cognitionandlearning.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 1, 2020 1:33 PM

[REDACTED]; Susan Thompson
 <district1@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>; Kristie Borchers <district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>; Sara Gutterman
 <district3@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>; [REDACTED] chamber@lakewood,
 [REDACTED] @townoflakewood, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] [REDACTED], [REDACTED] [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] [REDACTED], [REDACTED] [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] [REDACTED], [REDACTED] [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] [REDACTED], [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Subject: Hinsdale County HWY 149 Pilot Program Continuation

Esteemed Lake City, Hinsdale County, and Colorado Officials:

We are owners of the North Face Lodge in Lake City, Colorado and do ourselves appreciate the Pilot Program opportunity we have had to drive our OHV on State Hwy 149. However we have most appreciated the State's Pilot Program for giving our guests at the Lodge the opportunity to drive their OHVs on HWY 149. This ability has contributed significantly to the growth of our business over the last few years. We are therefore requesting the extension of the pilot program for another 3-5 years with a possible expansion to include use of HWY 149 to Woodlake Park on the South Side and to the car wash on the North side of town. Continuing this Pilot allows residents and visitors of Lake City to access both entry points to the Alpine Loop without having to use trailers while in Lake City. If this Pilot ends then our business will most certainly be hurt, with corresponding losses in sales and lodging tax to the state, city, and county.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your service to the Lake City community!

Best Regards,

John and Barb Conway, Owners
The North Face Lodge
www.thenorthfacelodge.com

Sandy Hines

From: Ivan Cook <ivancook@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 10:29 AM
To: Susan Thompson; Kristie Borchers; Sara Gutterman; Sandy Hines;
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: CDOT
CO149 Pilot Program for OHVs

Dear County Commissioners and Town Trustees,

I'm writing in regard to the CO149 Pilot Program for OHVs. I have expressed my concerns to CDOT (via the email copied below) and was advised that their decision will likely follow your recommendations.

I urge you to please recommend that the CO149 Pilot Program be CANCELED until...

1. We have public input from more of those impacted.
2. We have a plan for law enforcement given the increase in workload.
3. We have a plan to manage the increased strain on our public land and natural resources.

Our county and town rely on tourism rooted in the beauty of our natural resources and public lands; but these resources, as vast as they may seem at times, are limited and have a finite capacity.

As Edward Abbey observes in his classic, *Desert Solitaire*, "...a motorized vehicle, when not at rest, requires a volume of space far out of proportion to its size. To illustrate: imagine a lake approximately 10 miles long and on the average one mile wide. A single motorboat could easily circumnavigate the lake in an hour; ten motorboats would begin to crowd it; twenty or thirty, all in operation, would dominate the lake to the exclusion of any other form of activity; and fifty would create the hazards, confusion and turmoil that makes pleasure impossible. Suppose we banned motorboats and allowed only canoes and rowboats; we would see at once that the lake seemed ten or perhaps a hundred times bigger."

While I appreciate that OHVs are a valuable tourist group, and would certainly not advocate for banning them, I do question our seemingly myopic obsession with them and our willingness to seek special accommodations for them at the expense of other tourist types. Interest in the backcountry, and outdoor recreation in general, has never been greater so we have the opportunity to act strategically and attract diverse tourism that creates a vibrant year-round economy. To achieve this, our goal should be maximizing the amount of tourism our scarce resources can sustainably support by prioritizing the lowest impact tourist types. If we continue to prioritize high-impact forms of tourism like OHVs over all else, we fail to maximize the benefit of our limited resources for the good of the community in favor of a few.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ivan Cook
Lake City Resident & Business Owner
308 N. Silver Street
Lake City, CO 81235

FROM: Ivan Cook <ivancook@gmail.com>
TO: michael.goolsby, zane.znamenacek, Commissioner.Zink, Commissioner.Hall
DATE: Mon, Oct 19, 1:29 PM

Hello,

I'm writing as a year-round Lake City resident and business owner to express concern with a continuation or expansion of the CO149 Pilot Program for OHVs. I'm also hoping to bring a bit of balance to the conversation as I'm sure you have received much correspondence on the topic with exaggerated perspectives from both sides of this hotly debated issue.

As a local business owner, I'm keenly aware that our community depends on revenue brought in by tourism and I welcome ALL tourists, including OHV users. That said, our community is best served long term by diverse tourism and does not benefit from unfair bias toward one particular tourist type. We need to provide a positive experience for anglers, hikers, bikepackers, hunters, motorcyclists, photographers, peak baggers, ice climbers, snowmobilers, skiers, etc. to build a sustainable year-round economy. I've personally witnessed OHV behavior this summer on CO149 during the Pilot Program that was detrimental to other visitors and diminished overall from the perception of Lake City and Hinsdale County as a tourist destination.

Examples include OHVs...

- ...driving on the shoulder obstructing cyclists and hikers.
- ...randomly stopping in the roadway and waving other vehicles around.
- ...turning without signaling.
- ...driven by underage drivers.
- ...driven by impaired drivers under the influence of alcohol.
- ...without required safety equipment.

The list goes on. Are all OHVs exhibiting problematic behavior? Absolutely not! But unfortunately, it IS common enough that it warrants attention.

As a resident, I've seen the negative impact that the CO149 Pilot Program has had on quality of life for our community. Since the introduction of the CO149 Pilot Program, we've seen an influx of OHV tourism that has put enormous stress on our local law enforcement. It's obvious to any visitor that OHV laws are not being enforced; whether it's running through stop signs, speeding through alleys, or literally racing other OHVs down CO149. We've also seen an unprecedented strain on our backcountry resources with the increase in motorized tourism. Our public lands and natural resources are the heart of our value as a tourist destination and they are currently being damaged by overuse; increased litter, human waste, and destruction of alpine tundra have all been heavily documented.

While the CO149 Pilot Program is not solely to blame, the ease-of access it provides OHVs is certainly a contributor that needs to be considered.

Lastly, you'll often hear proponents claim that residents overwhelmingly voted for OHV use on town streets as a proxy for support of the CO149 Pilot Program. That's not entirely accurate. The vote was 186 for and 119 against which is roughly a 60/40 split, but voting was limited to Town of Lake City voters and did not include the voice of many county residents that live in areas of high impact such as Wade's Addition just south of town. If we use Region 10's population data for Hinsdale County (pop. 820) and Lake City (pop. 374) then only 23% of county residents expressly voted in favor. The majority of county residents were either against, abstained, or were never included in the conversation.

Before approving a continuation or expansion of the CO149 Pilot Program, we need to better understand...

1. What best serves our whole community and represents a true majority of county residents? Now that we've had 2 years to live with the CO149 Pilot Program, it's time to hear from all voices of those impacted and not just a few business owners, officials, and OHV advocates.
2. How will our local law enforcement handle the increased workload? Law enforcement was woefully absent in the last 2 years and this has a direct impact on safety, as well as the ability to get valid data on the program's performance.
3. How will we handle the increased traffic and demand on our public lands and natural resources? We need a plan from our land managers (Town, County, CPW, BLM, USFS) for how best to handle the increase in motorized use in a way that protects our resources for all tourist groups and generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ivan Cook
Lake City Resident & Business Owner

Sandy Hines

From: Kristie Borchers
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:39 PM
To: Sandy Hines
Subject: Fw: UTV Support

Kristie Borchers
Hinsdale County Commissioner
PO Box 277
Lake City, CO 81235
district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us
970-596-9071



HINSDALE COUNTY
COLORADO

From: Viva Kay Coulter <coulterappl@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:27 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@state.co.us> [REDACTED]
<district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>; district3@hinsdalecountycolorado.us <district3@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>;
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@lakecitycolorado.com> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@lakecitycolorado.com>
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@lakecitycolorado.com> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@lakecitycolorado.com>
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@lakecitycolorado.com> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@lakecitycolorado.com>
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@lakecitycolorado.com> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@lakecitycolorado.com>
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@lakecitycolorado.com> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@lakecitycolorado.com>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@lakecitycolorado.com> [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@lakecitycolorado.com>
Subject: UTV Support

October 27, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

We are secondary homeowners in Lake City, Colorado since 1974. In 2016 we retired and now spend 6 - 7 months in Lake City every year.

We have owned an OHV for around 15 years. We have welcomed the flexibility to be able to leave our home and drive on HWY 149 which has been provided by the State's Pilot Program.

Since the legal speed limit is 35 MPH in this area, the OHV's can mix in with the local traffic easily and safely. By allowing the OHV's to travel on HWY 149 and make the complete Alpine Loop, people are eating and/or shopping in town. During the summer, the local stores are full with the OHV riders. This helps the town, county, and state. If this is not allowed, we could probably see more businesses closing. OHV noise is not nearly as loud as a Harley that is full throttled leaving town or some of the trucks.

We are requesting the extension of the State Pilot Program for another 3 - 5 years. We would like to see the area be expanded to include the use of HWY 149 to the Toy Wash or Elk Road on the north end of town and to Woodlake RV Park on the south end of town. These extensions would allow Lake City residents and visitors to access both entry points to the Alpine Loop without having to own, use, and/or store trailers. Some subdivisions do not allow trailers to be parked on the owner's property. Not only would this extension benefit many families and visitors, but also rest of our local businesses.

Thank you in advance for your consideration on this request.

Gary and Viva Kay Coulter

Sandy Hines

From: Kerry Coy <kerrycoy@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 2:25 PM
To: Sandy Hines; [REDACTED]
Subject: For inclusion in packets for public comments on Pilot Program. Please acknowledge receipt of this email. Thank you.

October 26, 2020

To: Colorado Department of Transportation, Town of Lake City & Hinsdale County, Colorado

Dear Zane Znamenacek, Town of Lake City Trustees and Board of County Commissioners,

Please curtail the Pilot Project on SH149 until such time as people are obeying state and local traffic laws, tickets are being issued for violations, the impact on the Town of Lake City residential neighborhoods can be assessed and illegal parking along SH 149 and in the neighborhoods is addressed.

The Pilot Project wishes to continue to rely on an election that did not begin to address the property owners of Lake City's wishes. For example, in my Historic District Block 25 Town of Lake City, there are **10** property parcels and **ONE** that votes in Lake City - **Mine!** The other households pay taxes and spend months in Lake City supporting the local economy. Do they not have any say? To rely **only** on an election outcome that represents a tiny portion of the people and not those who live part or nearly full time in Lake City is what continues to divide our community. Until the Pilot Program is no more, this town will not mend itself. Noise is something people never "get used to".

Of note is the parking and Right Of Way (ROW) issues needing to be addressed per the Model Traffic Code article 1205, which calls for parallel parking on the roadside aligning with the traffic flow. Where else in the state of Colorado is head in parking for commercial and residential properties along a state highway allowed? This dangerous daily occurrence by cars, trucks and OHVs backing into the state highway needs to be addressed. Can you imagine if a semi or logging truck coming down SH149 had to stop suddenly to keep from running over an OHV? Who would be liable? The State of Colorado, the Town of Lake City, Colorado Parks and Wildlife?

The noise of the OHVs along all roadways needs to be **assessed** and **addressed**. Per a conversation with the sheriff's office I learned Hinsdale County does not have any monitoring equipment to determine if these vehicles are in compliance with state noise regulations. For the "convenience" of a few the residents of properties along Henson, Gunnison, Silver and Bluff are subjected to excessive noise and parking issues for months and months. And now some want to extend the boundaries and lengthen the time of the program? What, I ask, is our payback? And why do many visiting owners of OHVs park in the front yards of our historic properties? Do they do this at home? Just plain rude in my opinion.

With the scheduled repaving, is not **NOW** the proper time to make some changes? CDOT and the local sheriff's office need a policy, an enactment and help with enforcement. It is unfortunate businesses and AirBnBs do not have sufficient off street parking but with the growth Lake City is experiencing, now is the time to put state standards in place. And the thousands of unlicensed OHVs? Who is to monitor them? Ticket them? Colorado Parks and Wildlife whom they fall under by statute?

CDOT and CSP hold the solution and we are counting on you to do your part in correcting a situation that has spun out of control and not just on Hwy 149.

Respectfully,

Kerry Coy
Lake City
kerrycoy@aol.com

2

From: John Coy <coloradonative53@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 10:04 AM
To: jessica.hendall@townofhinsdalecity.co; josh.thomingsworth@townofhinsdalecity.co;
doug.hendall@townofhinsdalecity.co; doug.hendall@townofhinsdalecity.co;
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
Kristie Borchers; Susan Thompson; Chris Kahl; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
jessica.hendall@townofhinsdalecity.co; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
barbara.mcdonald@hinsdalecity.co; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
Subject: Hwy 149 OHV Pilot Program, Hinsdale County

Dear Lake City Town Trustees and Hinsdale County Commissioners;

I am writing to request the CO149 Pilot Program in Hinsdale County be terminated for the following reasons:

First: Every credible safety organization has documented that OHV's are not safe for use on public highways. Their very name, *Off-Highway Vehicle*, indicates that they are not designed or certified for use on paved or hard-packed surfaces.

Safety stickers on my OHV warn that the vehicle is not to be operated on highways or pavement because of the inherent unsafe handling characteristics. Why would the Transportation Commission, whose job it is to ensure safety on Colorado's highways ignore these warnings and endanger public safety?

Second: There is a questionable backstory as to how the Pilot Program got started. Originally the idea started when a Town of Lake City Chamber of Commerce employee and Hinsdale County Commissioner, both of whom are no longer in their positions, applied to the Colorado Department of Natural Resources for inclusion into the Colorado the Beautiful Trails Program Initiative. The following is from the DNR website;

At the June 11 Outdoor Summit, Governor Hickenlooper directed the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to lead this initiative by first identifying 16 priority trails, trail segments, and trail gaps in 2016. **Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway**

The Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway needs to fill a 1.5-mile gap near Lake City in order to complete the 64-mile natural surface trail between scenic Silverton and Ouray. An environmental impact assessment will be necessary to advance this project, DNR officials say. Information: Colorado DNR. (NO environmental assessment was done)

The so called "natural surface trail" is not a trail as envisioned by the program. Instead the Alpine Loop consists of CO 149 and large sections of County Road 30 and 20. It is not a hiking trail. Cars, jeeps and OHV's typically reach speeds that endanger pedestrians and cyclists. I believe the DNR was misled into thinking the Alpine Loop is a hiking trail like the other projects in the 16 in 16 Trail Program. With little public input and transparency, this morphed into the CO 149 Pilot Program.

Third: Lake City had a petition and vote to ban OHV's within the Town in 2019 that failed. The reason it failed is simple: Lake City is a community where approximately 70% of the homes are not occupied year around, consisting mostly of seasonal residents who do not vote in Lake City or Hinsdale County. These seasonal residents pay property taxes, utilities and support local businesses, but their input is largely ignored on many key issues such as this.

Fourth: When the Town opened up its streets and alleys to OHV's, many thought the increase in sales tax revenue would be sufficient to fund the programs needed to monitor and enforce laws needed to protect our neighborhoods and backcountry but a careful analysis of sales tax receipts for August 2020 show that of the 32% increase over prior year, 25% was from ON-LINE purchases. How much did OHV users actually contribute? Evidently the revenues are insufficient to fund the actions needed to deal with the enormous influx of OHV's. Maybe the solution is a permitting program done in conjunction with the BLM for sufficient Backcountry/Alpine Rangers, parking, road repair (think County Rd 30 around the lake) and local noise and speed monitoring.

Fifth: Most disturbing is the transformation taking place within our community. Once a growing community, Lake City is now a community where residents and summer workers cannot find affordable housing because homeowners are converting their homes into VRBO rentals instead of enjoying time there themselves. The peace and tranquility of the mountains no longer exists. Mayberry has turning into a Sturgis with chainsaw-levels of noise filling the Historic District. The noise from OHVs begins early in the morning and continue late into the evening. In terms of business, Lake City is becoming a seasonal convenience store and not a thriving year-round community.

With over 350,000 vehicles on the Alpine Loop (accordingly to the BLM) it is time to stop and allow the Town and County time to access the situation and plan for the future. Work is being undertaken by a group including a Town Trustee and County Commissioner who are reaching out to all stakeholders to work on solutions. We have a beautiful new school to attract young families and the County is working on adding much needed recreational opportunities at Lake San Cristóbal. The future could be bright. However, "quiet" activities like fishing, hiking, photography and historical tourism are being driven away by the excessive OHV use. We have the opportunity to remain a quality mountain community but with the current chaos, I recommend CDOT and the Transportation Commission terminate the Pilot Program until the Town and County can catch up and find solutions to the host of issues raised.

As a third generation Colorado native, I ask CDOT and the Transportation Commission to assess the issues stated above and not renew or expand the expired Pilot Program.

Respectfully,

John Coy

Sandy Hines

From: Kristie Borchers
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 8:53 AM
To: Sandy Hines; Susan Thompson; Sara Gutterman
Subject: Fw: OHV Pilot Program

Kristie Borchers
Hinsdale County Commissioner
PO Box 277
Lake City, CO 81235
district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us
970-596-9071



From: McKinzie Crain <mckinziecrain@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 8:10 AM
To: Kristie Borchers <district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>
Subject: OHV Pilot Program

Good morning,

My family has been secondary homeowners in Lake City, Colorado for nearly 100 years, and my great great grandfather put in many mining roads with a mule team. We use our own OHV's and we have welcomed the ability to drive on HWY 149 thanks to the states pilot program. My family and I are requesting an extension of the pilot program for another 3-5 years with possible expansion to include use of HWY 149 to Woodlake Park on the south side, and to Elk Rd on the north. These extensions would allow residents and visitors of Lake City to access both access points to the alpine loop without having to own, use and store trailers.

Not only has this pilot program allowed us to access trails, it has allowed us and others to be able to access Lake City from the trails, and then proceed to spend our money in town. As Lake City is a vacation town in the most remote county in the lower 48 states, it is ABSOLUTELY beneficial and necessary that the town has income from visitors. Secondly, my great grandfather who I mentioned earlier, put in many mining roads many years ago which are only accessible with OHVs. This program has allowed us to learn about the rich mining history in the area, and with extension of this program can help me to teach my children about the area.

I really press you to consider an extension for the OHV Pilot Program in Lake City, CO because of all of the amazing benefits to the town and the landowners and visitors of the town traveling from other cities only accessible from the Alpine Loop which uses the Pilot Program. Thank you,

McKinzie Crain
(719) 924-2995

Lynn McNitt

From: Kristie Borchers
nt: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 4:23 PM
To: Lynn McNitt
Subject: Fw: Please cancel the CO149 Pilot Program

Kristie Borchers
Hinsdale County Commissioner
PO Box 277
Lake City, CO 81235
district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us
970-596-9071



From: Jennifer Cram <jmcram1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 7:10 PM
To: michael.goolsby@state.co.us <michael.goolsby@state.co.us>
Susan Thompson <district1@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>; Kristie Borchers <district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>;
Sara Gutterman <district3@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>; Sandy Hines <administrator@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>;
~~hannah.bell@townoflakecity.co~~; ~~lucy.connerboller@townoflakecity.co~~; ~~michelle.martin@townoflakecity.co~~
~~michelle.martin@townoflakecity.co~~; ~~priscilla.mason@townoflakecity.co~~; ~~richard.moore@townoflakecity.co~~
~~laverne@townoflakecity.co~~; ~~laverne@townoflakecity.co~~; ~~laverne@townoflakecity.co~~; ~~laverne@townoflakecity.co~~
~~laverne@townoflakecity.co~~; ~~judith.hollingsworth@townoflakecity.co~~; ~~judith.hollingsworth@townoflakecity.co~~
~~caroline.mitchell@townoflakecity.co~~; ~~caroline.mitchell@townoflakecity.co~~
Subject: Please cancel the CO149 Pilot Program

Director Goolsby,

I am concerned with the CO149 Pilot Program in Lake City and Hinsdale County. I live in Ouray County but I have visited and stayed and hiked in Hinsdale County many times.

The CO149 Pilot Program program should not be renewed. Hugely increased OHV traffic this past summer has led to problems in Lake City as well as overuse and damage to the backcountry in Hinsdale County. This damage can take years and years to be repaired (if it can be repaired at all) - it cannot be allowed to continue.

I would like to see the CO149 Pilot Program cancelled. OHVs destroy the community and wilderness areas - the backcountry damage is irreparable, and the community damage is lasting. At the very least please hold public meetings so that people can express their concerns with this program.

Thank-you,
Jennifer Cram

Sandy Hines

From: Jennifer Cram <jmcram1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 6:58 PM
To: Commissioner.Zink@state.co.us
Cc: Susan Thompson; Kristie Borchers; Sara Gutterman; Sandy Hines; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Please cancel the CO149 Pilot Program

Commissioner Zink,

~~I am~~ concerned with the CO149 Pilot Program in Lake City and Hinsdale County. I live in Ouray County but I have visited and stayed and hiked in Hinsdale County many times.

The CO149 Pilot Program program should not be renewed. Hugely increased OHV traffic this past summer has led to problems in Lake City as well as overuse and damage to the backcountry in Hinsdale County. This damage can take years and years to be repaired (if it can be repaired at all) - it cannot be allowed to continue.

I would like to see the CO149 Pilot Program cancelled. OHVs destroy the community and wilderness areas - the backcountry damage is irreparable, and the community damage is lasting. At the very least please hold public meetings so that people can express their concerns with this program

**Thank-you,
Jennifer Cram**

From: Ann McCord
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 2:12 PM
To: Sandy Hines
Subject: FW: CO 149 Pilot Program

Subject: Re: CO 149 Pilot Program

Thank you for providing your input. At this time, CDOT has not received any request to extend the timeframe or the limits of the OHV program. While I don't speak for the Transportation Commissioners copied on this e-mail, I will say that CDOT would have to really discuss and consider allowing any type of expansion of the highway limits of the program. The original idea was only to make completion of the Alpine Loop possible without the use of a trailer, not to allow unfettered access, and certainly not on Slumgullion Pass.

**Thanks,
Zane**

Hello and good day... My name is Tim Crist and I'm a year round resident of Lake City. I am writing today to voice concerns over the CO149 pilot program for OHVs and even more so about working to expand the program as the local group has requested. After an especially busy summer tourist season, I and many other full time residents were looking forward to the beginning of October and the end of the pilot program. I understand that OHVs are now a part of life in Lake City - the users bring in much needed dollars and such, but now, the group is looking to expand the

season under the guise of running errands and helping neighbors. Honestly, I think most folks in town have another vehicle to run errands and extending the pilot program so they can get their mail seems silly. As for extending the program north and south, again this is another extension of what was previously agreed to. Where does it end? Do we make CO149 accessible to OHVs all the way up to Slumgullion? It wasn't so long ago that all OHVs had to be trailered to a county road and now we can't live without unfettered access? There has been lots of take by the OHV group in general, but very little compromise. Could we at least draw the line at where the pilot program stood in 2020?

My other comment would be the lack of enforcement that occurs in and around town. I have seen OHVs on CO149 outside the dates of the pilot program and on the CO149 multiple times as far north as the high bridge area (close to mile marker 80). How can these requests for change be approved when there aren't adequate resource available to enforce what is currently in place? I think the sheriff's office has clearly stated that they don't have the man power to enforce adequately to begin with - why should any expansion be done with that known?

Thanks much and know that while to OHV group tries to minimize our voices as a small but vocal group, we still represent 40% of the town. After the crazy amount of tourism the town had in 2020, I would venture guess that percentage of folks that are tired of OHVs and the chaos they bring might even be higher. Please do take in consideration those of us in town that like the quiet and solitude of Lake City.

Sincerely,

Tim Crist

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Melody Crump and the purpose of my letter today is to show my support for the continued use of OHV's on HWY 149 and an extension of the State's Pilot program in Lake City and Hinsdale County. I have been a working-class member of this community my entire adult life and have firsthand experience of the benefits the program has brought to town. In my time working in the service industry I have seen my wages improve greatly because of the increased tourism this program has brought with it.

As you may know, Lake City has a small tourist season from June-September. In this time small business owners have a limited window to make enough money to survive the rest of the year. Unlike many business owners in town, we choose to live here year-round and our income goes back into the community. We are a family of small business owners, including immediate family and myself, and the impact this has had on our lives and sustainability to live in Lake City through the winters is unmatched.

My goal for my own little family is to purchase a home (and one day down the road, a business) as soon as possible; in order to do that, I will gladly sacrifice a few months of a hectic tourist season to ensure our town doesn't become a closed off retirement community for the wealthy, second-homeowning retired population from other states. I would personally like to see a 'curfew' of sorts discussed, as well as public parking, for the OHV population coming through town to limit the unnecessary use of town streets at literally all hours of the day/night.

While I feel there are still some kinks to be worked out, and that ultimately we must find a way to compromise and satisfy the needs and wants of our entire community, but I feel ending the program at this time seems to be a rushed decision. I would like to see an extension of 3-5 years so we can fully understand the economic impact the Pilot Program is having.

I understand your responsibility in this decision is not something taken lightly, I do not envy the weight on your collective shoulders. I expect whatever decision is made will upset a large amount of people, locals and visitors alike. I want to wish you all the best in making this decision.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Melody Crump

Sandy Hines

From: Kristie Borchers
Sent: Sunday, November 1, 2020 12:23 PM
To: Susan Thompson; Sara Gutterman; Sandy Hines
Subject: Fw: OHV letter
Attachments: OHV letter.docx; OHVLetter.docx

Kristie Borchers
Hinsdale County Commissioner
PO Box 277
Lake City, CO 81235
district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us
970-596-9071



From: Melody Crump <mjcrump14@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 1, 2020 11:55 AM
To: Kristie Borchers <district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>
Subject: OHV letter

Please see attached letters from my husband and myself.
Thank you,
Melody Crump

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Tyler Crump and I am writing you today to show my support for, request and extension of, the State's Pilot Program for the use of OHV's on Hwy 149. As a year-round resident whose main source of income is derived from our limited tourist season, I feel this is a unique attraction to our community and in recent years has brought unparalleled economic benefits to our town.

I have lived and worked in Lake City since 2017, and before that from 2012-2014. In that time, it has become glaringly obvious that the allowed usage of OHV's on the highway and through our town are a massive benefit to the tourist/service industry.

I have experienced countless interactions with locals and guests of all ages, demographics and backgrounds that find the uniqueness of our current OHV policies a true pleasure and something they really cannot experience elsewhere. The ability for visitors from Ouray and Silverton to complete the Alpine Loop by using one city street and small section of highway allows for an experience that just cannot get anywhere else. Eliminating the requirement for staging areas and trailering vehicles from one location to another is what keeps them coming back.

While the use of OHV's is not without its issues, I feel we as a community, and the state need more time to gather as much information, feedback and data as possible before making a decision that will leave a lasting impact for years to come. With any experimental programs all sides of the argument must be respected and taken into consideration. I am not convinced we have had the time to fully research the Pilot Program and its impact.

Therefore, again, I would like to state my support for a 3-5-year extension of the program that allows OHV use in Lake City and Hinsdale County on HWY 149 between CR 20 and CR 30. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tyler Crump

Sandy Hines

m: Kristie Borchers
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 9:51 AM
To: Sandy Hines
Subject: Fw: OHV

Kristie Borchers
Hinsdale County Commissioner
PO Box 277
Lake City, CO 81235
district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us
970-596-9071



From: Jess Cunningham <jessbrant99@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 7:57 AM
m: Kristie Borchers <district2@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>
Subject: OHV


I am a 23year resident of Lake City, Colorado. We also own or use OHV's and have welcomed the flexibility to drive on HWY 149 that has been provided by the State's Pilot Program. I/we are requesting the extension of the pilot program for another 3-5 years with possible expansion to include use of HWY 149 to Woodlake Park on the South Side and to the car wash or Elk Road on the North end. These extensions allow residents and visitors of Lake City to access both access points to the Alpine Loop without having to own,use and store trailers.

Thank your in advance for your consideration on this request

Jessica Cunningham



Ann McCord

From:  Sandy Hines
Sunday, November 8, 2020 9:44 PM
To: Ann McCord
Subject: FW: OHV Program Feedback


Sandy Hines

- County Administrator
- Public Information Officer
970-944-2225

-----Original Message-----

From: D W <dzgxrfx@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 8:27 PM
To: Sandy Hines <administrator@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>
Subject: OHV Program Feedback


Hello,

 and our friends visited Lake City for the first time a couple years back and we stayed at Woodlake Park Campground. We could ride our SxS's from the campground to the loop, to town, it was absolutely wonderful.

Our friends went back on their own the following Summer and were harassed by the DNR guy in town, threatening to write tickets when they pulled their SxS's to the pass which is allowed and is not his realm of responsibility. That doesn't make us want to come back. The harassment plus the campground is right past 30. It should be allowed to ride that 1/8 mile to get to the trail or to town.


I really support being able to ride from the campground to town. And I fully support your local PD (not DNR) penalizing any OHV rider who is out of line. We're in our 50's. We're respectful, we respect you and we would love to come back and enjoy and support the community.

Thank you for collecting this feedback.

Thank you,
Darren 




Ann McCord

From:  Sandy Hines
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 10:20 PM
To: Ann McCord
Subject: FW: Woodlake Park

Sandy Hines

- County Administrator
- Public Information Officer
970-944-2225



From: Rex Deford <d4dranch@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 2:36 PM
To: Sandy Hines <administrator@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>
Subject:  Woodlake Park

To whom it may concern,

My wife and I visit Woodlake Park in Lake City each summer. We use OHV's to get around town and go on trips in the mountains to enjoy the fresh mountain air of Colorado. We have truly enjoyed the flexibility of being able to drive our OHV on Hwy 149 in the past from Woodlake Park to Lake City without having to trailer our OHV.

We are asking for your consideration of the Pilot Program for another 3-5 years with the possible expansion to include Hwy 149 to Woodlake Park on the south and to the Toy Wash or Elk Road on the north side of town. This will allow residents and visitors to access both entry points to the Alpine Loop, as well as tour, shop, and enjoy the restaurants in Lake City, again without having to trailer their OHV.

 Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Rex & Karen DeFord
2208 Watermark Place
McKinney, TX 75071
(214) 663-1758
 ranch@gmail.com

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Sandy Hines

From: Helen Dewey <gimma2@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 25, 2020 11:31 AM
To: Susan Thompson; Kristie Borchers; Sara Gutterman; Sandy Hines
Cc: Polis Jared; Donovan Kerry; McLachlan Barbara; Goolsby Michael; Znamenacek Zane
Subject: CDOT 149 Pilot Program

As a resident of Hinsdale County and homeowner with a family history of owning property in the county starting in the 1890's I, and my family, have committed time, energy, money, personal and professional experience over the years to help maintain the unique natural beauty of the area, and to sustain a solid, well-rounded lifestyle for the betterment of its citizenry. This has included multiple innovative art experiences (including chairing the Year 2000 Tile Murals Project installed at the bridge entrances to Memorial park which received the Governor's Award for Excellent in the Arts), enhancing landscaping on town property with private donations(10 year Ball Flats Beautification Project), establishing the Lake City Chamber Music Series, now in its 4th decade, and serving as Hinsdale County Director of the Colorado River Water Conservation District for 11 years 2002-2013, to mention a few.

I do not list the above for any reason other than to preface my deep concern over the extreme damages that have been done to Hinsdale County by the OHV CDOT HWY 149 Pilot Program which ended September 30, 2020.

These include traffic, noise, dust, excess speed and physical damage to the back country wilderness that will take decades to recover from. The size of Hinsdale County makes it impossible to monitor activity of this type adequately under any circumstances. The short term undocumented local tax gains with OHV presence in our community does not offset the damages done to what is one of the few small jewels in Colorado's crown. The town and county have protected it with long term planning and need to continue to do so.

I strongly urge you to not recommend implementation of the CO 149 2021 year program under any circumstances. In addition to the reasons cited above, OHVs are not certified for use on paved or hard packed surfaces. CO 149 is a public highway, the Alpine Loop is accessed via public roads, and the land surrounding Alpine Loop is public land. Further, property owners/tax payers who live in the county outside the town limits have had no opportunity to express their views in a public forum.

Again, I plead with each of you to do your elected duty and protect our very special community.

Thank you,

Helen Dewey

The Dewey Family

Ann McCord

From: Sandy Hines
To: Ann McCord
Subject: FW: Regarding the Pilot Program renewal for State Highway 149 in Lake City

Sandy Hines

- County Administrator
- Public Information Officer
970-944-2225



From: David Dodson <davidgdodson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 5, 2020 9:22 AM
To: Sandy Hines <administrator@hinsdalecountycolorado.us>
Subject: Regarding the Pilot Program renewal for State Highway 149 in Lake City

Dear Sirs:

As a property owner in Hinsdale County and as an owner of an OHV, my wife and I are in favor of the Pilot Program. We also believe that this program is good for Lake City businesses and Hinsdale County.

We are respectful of the law and of other property owners. While the vast majority of other OHV users are also very respectful, we do recognize that there will always be a few OHV owners who are not. We hear a lot of complaints about noise, but OHVs are not any louder than motorcycles. So we feel like this argument is very petty and selfish.

I do think the speed limits could be lowered on Hwy 149 for OHVs and more strictly enforced. Also, there appears to be noncompliance with some of the higher elevation off road traffic, which could be more strictly enforced and more visible signage to educate those that are not familiar with the rules and regulations. I do understand that these enforcement and signage postings would take more dollars, but I would believe that the economic benefits with the Pilot Program far out way the negative impact of not having it.

Our family has been coming to Hinsdale County since the early 1960s and we now own three separate homes. Like so many, we do love the rural and quaint atmosphere that it provides. But we believe that there is a lot of pettiness in the complaints of those opposed to the Pilot Plan. They try to pull in noise, safety and environmental negatives, but we believe this is just a way to complain. We have no problems with the Pilot Program and think it should be permanently implemented.

Overall I think allowing the completion of the Alpine Loop, via access over Hwy 149, has had a much greater positive impact on the county than any of the negatives.

We would strongly support the continuation of OHV access to this stretch of Hwy 149 and would support it becoming permanent.

Respectively,

David & Debbie Dodson
307 S. Henson St.
Lake City, CO