



Quiet Times



Spring 2007

Newsletter of the Quiet Use Coalition

Issue 7

The Quiet Use Coalition

We are a local non-profit member organization working to promote, create and preserve quiet areas and activities on our public lands and waters. We are concerned about quiet on Forest Service, BLM, State and County land and also roads and trails on that land and through our rural and town communities. Our group was formed over 10 years ago. We are a group focusing mainly on issues in Chaffee and surrounding counties.

There has been an enormous growth in public land use in general and disruptive activities on those lands in recent years. The forest is not always the quiet and peaceful place it once was and as you may remember it. We are working to ensure that traditional "quiet users" like hikers, horseback riders, campers, wildlife watchers, fishermen, bicyclists, etc. not be displaced off public lands by newer less quiet use. Our group originally developed the term 'quiet use' to describe the traditional recreation activities that are most prevalent on public land and to distinguish these 'quiet' uses from newer motorized use. The term 'Quiet Use' is now used nationwide by land managers and agencies.

We know from surveys that the vast majority of public land users prefer quiet. We know most people who visit our forests and open space do so to find peace, solitude and freedom from the frustrations and distractions of modern society. We know that most of the people that live or have moved to our area enjoy the quiet peaceful nature of our communities and surroundings.

We are working for and as a voice of these quiet users.

We recognize that responsible motorized use is a valid part of public land use, and all of our proposals include responsible motorized options.

What we do

- We *volunteer* to help public land managers. For example we spent over 300 volunteer hours in the field this past summer working with the USDA Forest Service repairing damage, improving wildlife habitat, and enhancing areas for quiet recreation. Many of our projects include repairing damage done by irresponsible motorized use.
- We act as *stewards* for public land. We have adopted numerous local trails, and hike them and others and perform maintenance on them.
- We *monitor* area roads, trails and open space, reporting harmful and illegal activity, and then work on ways to prevent it from occurring again and promote responsible use.
- We *work with* governing land agencies to enhance and increase quiet use. We support the Brown's Canyon wilderness, which will balance other uses in that area, and helped keep most Chaffee Co. roads quiet.
- We *educate* the public about responsible quiet use is, via booths at events, newsletters, etc.
- We *host activities* that are fun, interesting, and educational for the public. Our group members lead hikes, walks and conduct events that promote quiet use.

Join Us. We appreciate those that can donate time, money or ideas to our effort.

QUC 2006 Volunteer Projects Successful

Our summer volunteer work projects went well and we accomplished more than we initially planned to. We had 38 different people from the QUC contribute their time and labor to these, and we spent over 300 total volunteer hours actually working in the field with the USDA Forest Service to protect and preserve public land.

We worked near Grizzly Lake, Grassy Gulch, at the Green Timber Gulch Trailhead, Pomeroy Lake, on the Poplar Gulch Trail, on ATV trail #1434 near Browns Canyon WSA, and at the Pass Creek Trailhead.



Driving home the point near S. Cottonwood



We are working to Protect Grizzly Lake

Just about all of the work we did resulted in the creation of more small, but real, quiet areas in the forest. We worked to prevent habitat fragmentation and improve forest health and integrity. Our work should help prevent further damage to the forest.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed food, transportation and time to these projects. We would also like to thank Brett Beasley and the Forest Service for their assistance and effort in recognizing the need for these projects. We have similar projects scheduled for 2007. (see page 4)

Travel Management Rule

In November of 2005, the Forest Service published a new rule for providing motor vehicle access to forestlands and grasslands. This travel management rule requires each Forest Service district to designate specific roads, trails and areas that will be open to motor vehicle use. Any motor vehicle uses off these designated routes is prohibited, except in emergency and permitted situations. In effect, this rule restricts motor vehicles to these designated routes and prohibits their use on all other parts of the forest.

Over the next two years, the public will be allowed to participate in the process of deciding exactly which roads, trails and areas should be designated for motor vehicle use. The QUC is working with the Forest Service in this important management process and will help you stay abreast of this ongoing issue in the future, We want you to voice your opinion as the outcome will influence all forest users.

Our local Forest Service region website on theTMP rule

http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/recreation/travel_mgmt/

The national forest service website for this

<http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv>

Facts About Our Trails and Quiet

In the Salida Ranger District of the National Forest, there are ~476 miles of system roads and trails open to motorized use. In the Salida Ranger District, there are only ~199 miles of trails that are open to quiet users only.

In National Forest Visitor use monitoring studies from the local Pike-San Isabel forests in 2002, the top 5 participation activities of forest visitors were viewing natural features, viewing wildlife, relaxing/hanging out/escaping noise, driving autos for pleasure on system roads and hiking/walking.

Most points within Chaffee County are less than 2 miles from a motorized route. There is only one point in the County that is significantly distant from a road: a point near the summit of Mt Harvard is just over 4 miles from any road.

A recent study on Chaffee County tourism found that the top 5 outdoor activities that tourists do here are: Walking, Photography, Hiking, Bird watching, and Fly fishing. Tourism makes up almost 34% of the County's economy, and these quiet activities are the most common outdoor recreational pursuits of tourists

A study has shown that the average person that climbs a 14er spends ~\$200 within 25 miles of the summit on their climbing trip. Given that Chaffee County has 12 14,000' peaks in its boundaries, and the popularity of climbing them, these quiet climbers may add over \$12 million to the local economy.

A system-wide survey revealed that nearly as many visitors come to national parks to enjoy the natural soundscape (91 percent) as come to view the scenery (93 percent).

Roadless Rule Reinstated

U.S. Magistrate Judge Elizabeth D. LaPorte ruled in September that President Bill Clinton's 2001 Roadless Rule be reinstated, protecting 4.4 million acres of roadless areas in Colorado national forests and more than 58 million acres nationwide.

An additional ruling also prevents the U.S. Forest Service from approving or allowing any surface disturbance of a mineral lease issued after Jan. 12, 2001, on which drilling or development has not already begun.

LaPorte's ruling sidelined Bush's 2005 rule requiring states to petition the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding national forest lands suitable for protection as roadless area

QUC Volunteer Coordinator

The QUC has acquired a volunteer coordinator that has been assisting with many aspects of the organization.

Tom Sobal is truly a quiet use aficionado best known as a champion runner, snowshoer and burro racer. His ability as a burro racer to effectively manage asses in the forests and mountains is particularly intriguing. Tom has an intimate knowledge of the local landscape, and has years of experience coordinating outdoor events.

QUC Volunteers Needed

We are always looking for volunteers with specific interests, in the following areas; fundraising, membership, PR, volunteer projects, direction and activities. If you have skills that you would like to volunteer, please contact us. We need people with computer skills to enter data, format publications, etc. We are looking for people with GPS units and/or digital cameras to document field conditions. We need people to help distribute information and materials.

You can donate 30-3000 minutes of time, or anything in between.

If there is something you enjoy doing, let us know and we can probably put it to good use to help our cause.

Contact us to volunteer via 207-4130 or info@quietuse.org

2007 Volunteer Work Projects

Join us for these projects to protect and preserve public land. These outings promise to be interesting, fun and educational days in beautiful settings. Volunteers will be working with like minded people to actually improve on-the-ground conditions in the forest.

We are looking for people who can contribute lunch food, transportation, and, of course, their time and energy in the field to make these projects a success. QUC will try to provide transport from local towns, lunch, instruction and tools for these. All levels of ability are welcome. We will often be working with USDA Forest Service personnel on these projects

The QUC Needs You for these projects! They will accomplish important changes in the field and on the ground. We will be protecting land and habitat which will allow it to heal, recover and return to a natural state.

Please Mark your Calendar and contact us for more details and to sign up to help.

Our Upcoming Projects Include:

- May 1 NE of Salida
- May 3 Bald Mtn. Area
- June 2 Rainbow Trail at Hwy. 285 crossing
- June 20 Pass Creek Trail
- June 27 Grizzly Lake Area
- July 11 Mineral Basin Area
- July 13 – July 14 Green Timber Gulch Trail Area
- August 16 – Stout Lake Trail Sangre de Christo Wilderness
- August 25 – N Fork road Area

Other Activities

Group size is limited for some of the following activities, so please RSVP @719-207-4130 or info@quietuse.org. Check our website for more information www.quietuse.org

Llama Handling Class at Antero Llamas

Sunday, April 29, 2007 1p.m-3 or 4 p.m.

Learn what you need to know to hike with and handle a llama, including packing, saddling, mannerisms and to find out if llamas really do spit

Birding Walk

Saturday, May 19, 2007 7:45 a.m. – noon.

Join Jacque Fischer for this introductory birding walk in the southern part of the county.

Rainbow Trail Hike with naturalist and author Susan Tweit

Saturday, June 23, 2007 9 a.m.- ~1 or so.

Join local Susan to hike a beautiful (but not so quiet) section of the Rainbow trail off Highway 285.

Poplar Gulch/Green Timber Gulch trail.

Saturday, July 7, 2007 8a.m.- 3 p.m.

Join us for this unique opportunity to cover the entire length of this beautiful trail

We will try to have two groups carpooling to both ends of this 6 mile route, so hikers will have the opportunity to do a point to point hike over the entire trail. Groups plan to meet on the fantastic high point at 12,300' for lunch.

Saturday, Sept 15 TBA Chipeta Roadless area hike

Please Join us.

The Quiet Use Coalition is currently updating our list of supporters.

We would like to hear from you before **August 1, 2007** for you to continue to receive information from us. Your donations are much appreciated and go a long way towards helping us work for and achieve our goal of creating, promoting and preserving quiet use opportunities and areas on our public lands and waters.

Please provide us with your updated contact information, including an Email address if you have one, so that we can save costs and energy by notifying you in cyberspace.

The QUC has a new office phone, a local call from Chaffee County calling area, at (719) 207-4130.

We are always seeking people willing to actively participate in our organization. You can help by committing volunteer time, funds or your interest and ideas. Join us by sending in the completed form that follows or contact us by email or phone.



**P.O. Box 164
Buena Vista, CO 81201**

719-207-4130
info@quietuse.org
www.quietuse.org

Yes I would like to join and contribute to the Quiet Use Coalition

\$15.00 _____ I'm for Quiet Name _____

\$25.00 _____ I'm Crazy for Quiet! Address _____

\$45.00 _____ I've got to have Quiet!!!!

Other \$ _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Time _____ Yes I can help volunteer Email _____

Interests/skills _____

_____ Phone _____

Please make checks payable to the 'Quiet Use Coalition' 501 (c)(3) ID # 84-1457091

Mail to: Quiet Use Coalition P.O. Box 164 Buena Vista, Co. 81211
 Thank You!

