

Letter of Intent

As residents of Colorado Springs, this letter of intent is to draw attention to an issue that has deeply affected not only our small business but also our wider community. Our area, known for its stunning natural beauty, offers limited options for camping that are both accessible and adequately private for a quick weekend getaway. The lack of such options has been a long-standing desire, and securing a special permit for a local campsite could bring positive change, addressing numerous community needs.

The location of this campsite is bisected by Old Stage Road, a city-maintained dirt road that leads to other businesses such as the Cantina, two Riding Stables, the Broadmoor's Cloud Camp and Emerald Vally Ranch and into Pikes National Forest and on through to Cripple Creek. Unfortunately, this road frequently encounters individuals who illegally camp (setting unmaintained fires) speeding, littering, and discharging firearms showing a complete disregard for the safety of the residents, wildlife and livestock. There appears to be a prevailing sentiment that this area is a lawless area.

As taxpayers who actively maintain the land, Our goal is to encourage recreational activities responsibly and legally benefiting from the county's commitment to safe and responsible infrastructure in hopes to help manage public behavior and protect those of us living near, on and utilizing this property.

This campsite will not only provide a much needed and legal recreational venue, it will also offer vital job opportunities for local residents. The development includes plans for fire mitigation measures (land clearing and utilizing dead lumber for fuel), which would enhance local safety standards and potentially decrease the risk of wildfires in our community—an issue increasingly relevant given recent climate patterns.

Furthermore, recreational activities at the campsite will foster community engagement by serving as a space for church, nonprofit organizations and youth groups' activities, as well as providing a refuge for our esteemed military personnel seeking respite. Such a location will greatly enhance community morale and provide a retreat for relaxation and community-building.

We urge the local authorities to consider this special permit application. The potential benefits of establishing a new recreational area are too great to ignore. Supporting this project aligns with our community's values and needs and will enhance the quality of life for all visitors and residents.

Sincerely,
Angela Gregg
Yakalo Ranch