

The Highpoint

July 2006

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The Haviland Lake/Chris Park Controversy

By Jack Silton

I have read with a great deal of interest, the arguments for and against the proposed land swap between Glacier Property Associates (the Glacier Club) and the Forest Service. There have been a number of articles in the Herald and numerous impassioned letters to the editor.

The Glacier Club is seeking to expand their golf course by nine holes and to build additional houses and has proposed an exchange which would give them 320 acres of Forest Service land, principally south and east of the Chris Park campground. In exchange, the Forest Service would receive two valuable in-holdings of equal size at Mitchell Lakes and Hermosa Park. A feasibility study, to be followed by an appraisal of the relative values of the trade parcels, is now under way by the Forest Service. The rules allow limited differences in value to be mitigated by cash, up to 25% of the value.

The Forest Service would like to eliminate in-holdings, which are like islands of private land in the middle of the National Forest that could conceivably be developed by the owner, similar to the situation developing at Wolf Creek Pass. Additionally, the Forest Service must provide access to in-holdings creating another headache for them.

Those opposed to the proposed swap cite the loss of a conveniently accessible area which is popular with hikers, rock climbers, horseback riders, snowshoers and cross country skiers. They cite the possible loss of an eclectic collection of biologic features including wetlands, caves, old growth forestland and grassy meadows. Further, they cite the location of the historic Animas-Sil-

verton stagecoach and wagon road as being through the proposed land swap area.

Opponents have instigated a vigorous letter-writing campaign to the Forest Service and have geared-up in opposition to the swap proposal. The issues opposing the swap are very compelling and I am sure will be seriously considered by the Forest Service.

Since I have seen so many provocative and possibly, misleading statements by opponents of the swap I thought I would talk directly to Malcolm Dunlevie, the Chief Operating Officer of the Glacier Club, and



take a walk around the proposed parcel that they are seeking to acquire with Doug Shand, their attorney. While I didn't get any inkling of the monetary value of the property, I did learn a few things. Haviland Lake is not in any part of this proposal. The complete Chris Park campground will remain where it is and any proposed new houses would not be visible there from. The wetlands will remain. The climbing wall and cave and the hiking and bridle trails thereto are not part of the proposed land swap. Best of all, the Glacier Club will not object to cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. So, keep an open mind and see what the Forest Service proposes and only then unleash those letters to them and the Herald.

Public's Help Needed in Preventing Wildfires

With continuing hot, dry, and windy weather in the forecast, the public needs to be extra careful with fire in southwest Colorado. Numerous abandoned campfires have been extinguished by firefighters in the past week.

"From Cortez to Durango and east to Pagosa Springs, we've found a number of abandoned campfires. With the weather we're having, it's just a matter of time before an illegal campfire takes off," said Mark Lauer, Fire Management Officer for the San Juan Public Lands.

The public needs to remember that campfires are only allowed in developed campgrounds. Developed campgrounds have man-made improvements such as picnic tables, bathrooms, and fire grates.

Fire managers responsible for the San Juan Public Lands are requesting help from the public in being vigilant when outdoors and to follow the Stage 1 fire restrictions that went into effect on June 2, in Zone 1, the lower-elevation zone.

The Stage 1 restrictions are:

- § campfires are limited to permanent fire rings or grates within developed campgrounds;
- § smoking is limited to vehicles, buildings, or 3-ft. wide areas cleared of vegetation;
- § chainsaws and other internal-combustion engines must have approved, working spark arresters;
- § acetylene and other torches with an open flame may not be used; and,
- § the use of explosives is prohibited.

The use of fireworks is always prohibited on all Forest Service and BLM lands, regardless of zone.

The current restrictions are posted at trailheads, campgrounds, & entry areas.

Seniors Outdoors! is an outing and social club providing organized year-round outdoor activities and related educational opportunities

To Join Seniors Outdoors!
Contact Susan Beck-Brown 375-0948
or e-mail: rdb835@frontier.net

Membership forms are available on the website: <http://www.seniorsoutdoors.org/>, at the monthly meetings, and on outings.

Board Briefs

Treasurer's Report: July '06
Income-----\$ 0
Expenses-----\$553.68
Balance-----\$1,783.26

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co-president-OPEN
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Board Meetings are OPEN to all members

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Horse Riders: Dell Manners, 382-9967
Road & Mountain Biking:
Walt Axthelm, 247-8520
Single Seniors: Carol Milliet, 259-0496

Welcome New Members

Adam Bridges
Lydine Hannula
Kathleen Haukeness
Bob and Betty Kibby
F. Fausto and Karen Miranda
Gary Mason
Jay and Stefany Rhodes
Kris Ryall
Scott Voss and Connie Rainey
John and Lucy Wornson

*Our total membership is now 524
Lets keep growing!!!!*

PURGATORY FLATS TRAILHEAD RELOCATED

Public access to the Purgatory Flats Trail has now been moved permanently from its earlier location along U.S. Highway 550 North into Tacoma Village, which is just south of the former parking area and on the same side of the highway. Signs direct trail users to the new parking location and trailhead.

May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing views.

May your mountains rise into and above the clouds.

- Edward Abbey, in *Nature*

The



EXtra
Mile

Many Senior Outdoors! Members go the distance in contributing the time and the expertise that is so vital in moving our group forward - SALUTE

July Trip Leaders: Bill Cagle, Willa Beatty, Trish Pegram, Jim O'Brien, Liz Brown, John Montle, Jim Beatty, Ed Ostermman, Dan Honig, Julie Korb, Gail Davidson, Harry Hance, Sandra Miller, Chris Wiehage, Sharron Chambers, Jo Fusco, Marv Dworkin, Norm Stern

July Hosts: Joanna Jennings, Carol Fifield, Dell Manners

July Clean-up: Mary Ann Crist, Dorothy Newell

Newly Remodeled Junction Creek Campground



The Junction Creek Campground, which has been closed for remodeling for the past two summers, has reopened. The popular San Juan National Forest campground is located about five miles west of Durango.

Renovations include a new water system and new fully accessible toilets. Two of the existing campground loops have been remodeled to offer more campsites and accessible facilities. Some new campsites are double sites, and some offer electricity for an additional cost. A new day-use-only area features two group sites and also includes a volleyball court and horseshoe pits, as well as family picnic sites.

The two new large group picnic sites can be reserved. One can hold up to 65 people and 18 vehicles. This group picnic site has water and electricity and includes a pavilion with serving tables, large grills and a group-size fire ring. This site is \$125 per day. The other group picnic site has a capacity of 50 people and parking for 14 vehicles. It has tables, a group-size fire ring, large grill and serving table. It has water but no electricity and costs \$75 per day. These would be perfect for your family, group or business picnic.

Single campsites cost \$14 per night and include parking for a trailer and vehicle. Double campsites cost \$28 per night and can hold four vehicles. Family picnic sites cost \$6 per day, and include parking for two vehicles.

Only group sites are reservable through the National Recreation Reservation Service at 1-877-444-6777 or www.reserveusa.com. Reservations may be made as much as one year in advance or as little as four days before arrival. If the group sites are open, they can be reserved through the onsite campground host four days prior to use by calling 505-401-2409 or stopping by the Campground Host site.

For more information, contact the Columbine Ranger District at 970-884-2512.

Hospitality Note

"We would like to be able to thank all those that sign up to help with snacks and cleanup. In order to do that we need you to write your name clearly when signing up to help - thanks".

Cancer News from Johns Hopkins:

Dianne Rebbin

1. No plastic containers in microwave.
2. No water bottles in freezer.
3. No plastic wrap in microwave.

Johns Hopkins has recently sent this out in its newsletters. This information is being circulated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

□Dioxin chemicals causes cancer, especially breast cancer.

Dioxins are highly poisonous to the cells of our bodies. Don't freeze your plastic bottles with water in them as this releases dioxins from the plastic.

Recently, Dr. Edward Fujimoto, Wellness Program Manager at Castle Hospital, was on a TV program to explain this health hazard. He talked about dioxins and how bad they are for us.

He said that we should not be heating our food in the microwave using plastic containers. This applies to foods that contain fat. He said that the combination of fat, high heat, and plastics releases dioxin into the food and ultimately into the cells of the body.

Instead, he recommends using glass, Corning Ware or ceramic containers for heating food. You get the same results, only without the dioxin. So such things as TV dinners, instant ramen and soups, etc., should be removed from the container and heated in something else. Paper isn't bad but you don't know what is in the paper. It's just safer to use tempered glass, Corning Ware, etc.

He reminded us that a while ago some of the fast food restaurants moved away from the foam containers to paper. The dioxin problem is one of the reasons.

Also, he pointed out that Saran wrap is just as dangerous when placed over foods to be cooked in the microwave. As the food is nuked, the high heat causes poisonous toxins to actually melt out of the plastic wrap and drip into the food.

Cover food with a paper towel instead.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, to all the volunteers who make this the great organization it is.

T-bone Steaks and Yellow Roses

Anne Martin

I walked into the grocery store not particularly interested in buying groceries. I wasn't hungry. The pain of losing my husband of 7 years was still too raw. And this grocery store held so many sweet memories.

He often came with me and almost every time he'd pretend to go off and look for something special. I knew what he was up to. I'd always spot him walking down the aisle with the three yellow roses in his hands. He knew I loved yellow roses.

With a heart filled with grief, I only wanted to buy my few items and leave, but even grocery shopping was different since he had passed on. Shopping for one took time, a little more thought than it had for two. Standing by the meat, I searched for the perfect small steak and remembered how he had loved his steak.

Suddenly a woman came beside me. She was lovely in a soft green pantsuit. I watched as she picked up a large package of T-bones, dropped them in her basket, hesitated, and then put them back. She turned to go and once again reached for the pack of steaks. She saw me watching her and she smiled. "My husband loves T-bones, but honestly, at these prices, I don't know."

I swallowed and met her pale blue eyes. "My husband passed away eight days ago," I told her. Glancing at the package in her hands, I fought to control the tremble in my voice. "Buy him the steaks. And cherish every moment you have together."

She shook her head and I saw the emotion in her eyes as she placed the package in her basket and wheeled away. I turned and pushed my cart across the length of the store to the dairy products. There I stood, trying to decide which size milk I should buy. A quart, I finally decided and moved on to the ice cream. If nothing else, I could always fix myself an ice cream cone.

I placed the ice cream in my cart and looked down the aisle toward the front. I saw first the green suit, then recognized the lady coming towards me. In her arms she carried a package. On her face was the brightest smile I had ever seen. As she came closer, I saw what she held and tears began misting in my eyes. "These are for you," she said and placed three beautiful long stemmed yellow roses in my arms.

First Hike

Inge Silton

Would you believe, here it is past the middle of June and I have been too busy to go on even one hike? Always it is, maybe next week - and I am supposed to be retired! But all of a sudden, I realized we are six days away from going to the Black Hills for some hiking. Could I possibly get in one hike before we left? Yes, the Hermosa Creek trail was not only close but would be an easy warm-up hike.

I packed up gear - did I forget anything? Water, food, raingear (not a cloud in the sky, but knowing one should ALWAYS be prepared) sunscreen, insect repellent (just in case), potty stuff, hiking boots, socks, water for Kelly (my dog), leash.....

We, Kelly and I, get to the parking area only to find it full of cows. No problem, we would go around them. No sooner do we start then the cows start also and head right down the trail in front of us. We stopped, they stopped. We sped up to try to go around them, they trotted faster. Just when I thought our whole hike be following cows, we came to a wide spot on the right where the creek crosses the trail and the cows politely stepped off the trail to let us pass.

At last, I could let Kelly off the leash and we could enjoy the hike. It was still cool, wildflowers, like Richard's Geranium and lupines, were in abundance, and the scenery, if not spectacular by Colorado standards, was pleasant. We continued on, meeting only two other joggers, until we saw, what I presumed to be the back of the La Platas, to the left, and I knew we were not far from where the Dutch Creek trail comes in, which was our turn around point.

We hiked up the little hill just past the Dutch Creek trail to relax and enjoy a snack, before heading back.

The whole hike was peaceful, quiet and rejuvenating, and I remembered again why I loved to hike and how much I had missed it.



DISCOUNTS

SO! members receive a 10% discount on regularly priced merchandise at Gardenswartz, Backcountry, Brown's Shoe Fit for hiking products, and Brown's Sport Shoe on hiking and athletic products.. At Pine Needle you will be able to purchase their \$15 discount card for \$5. Cut out this article and present it to the clerk checking you out.

For more information contact
John Montle 259-9469.

Next Meeting August 8
6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting
Rec Center

"Exercise Right for Maximum Benefits"
Dick Shappell
exercise physiologist, will present a
program to help all of us in our goal
of increasing strength, flexibility and
fitness.

CORSAR

Colorado Outdoor Search and Rescue
cards

for sale by your co-presidents
every month at SO! meetings

Changes

When changing email address, phone number, or mailing address please alert our membership chair Anne Rendon at TRTRendon@mydurango.net or 884-2729 as soon as possible to ensure that you continue to receive your newsletter, outings schedule, emails, etc.

Want to save SO! some money?
Get the newsletter on the Web
www.seniorsoutdoors.org

Contact Anne Rendon at 884-2729
to have your name removed from the
mailing list.



Membership Renewal Form

The membership renewal form is available electronically.



Seniors Outdoors!
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