

EI-30300

We are the inheritors of a trust that includes a portion of 640 acres located at and around 39.870301 latitude and -110.731647 longitude. This property was originally homesteaded by my great-grandfather and grandfather in the early part of the 20th century. We have the following concerns about a railroad running under or through our property:

1. **Air Quality and Climate Change:** One of the beloved aspects of this area is the clean air and mountain atmosphere. This includes the perfumes of the natural forest and undergrowth, the smell of a fresh rainfall, and the clear skies during the day and especially at night. Our concern is that a regular running freight service will produce diesel emissions and other gases and particulates that will pollute the air, produce bad odors, and decrease air quality overall. There is also a concern that increased emissions could change the weather patterns and cause a change in the amount of rainfall received, possibly threatening the ecosystem.
2. **Noise and Vibration:** Railroads produce a high amount of vibration and noise. In the immediate vicinity of the railroad, this has the risk of driving away wildlife, producing noise pollution that inhibits the enjoyment of the natural environment for recreation, and disturbs the pristine nature of the area. The vibrations of the train moving through the area also risk disturbing wildlife migration patterns and may also cause fracturing of the rock strata that could destroy the springs that have produced water for five generations of family.
3. **Recreation:** This area has been a primary recreation area for our family, friends, and neighbors for nearly 100 years. A train going through this area will dramatically change the character of the property and make it less appealing and attractive for recreation.
4. **Biological Resources:** This property is home to a wide variety of wildlife, including bear, deer, elk, moose, beavers, coyotes, mountain lions, bobcats, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, and other animal and insect life. The introduction of a railroad has a strong potential to change the migration, feeding, and reproduction patterns of the indigenous wildlife, resulting in either departure or diminishment of wildlife in the area.
5. **Socio economics:** Changing character of this property with the introduction of a railroad will reduce the value of property, making it more difficult to develop or sell in the future as desired by the property owners.
6. **Cultural and Historical Resources:** Many of the structures on the property have been there for decades. Especially the small cabin that was used to homestead the property could be considered an historic resource. American Indian rock art in the area, especially further down in the 9-mile canyon area indicates that this land was frequented and hunted by American Indian ancestors. The railroad should not destroy the cultural heritage of many thousands of years. A full archeological study of the proposed corridors should be completed prior to any work being done.
7. **Water Resources:** This property is home to several springs that have served both the wildlife and the property owners for generations. No damage to the water resources is acceptable as a result of this project.

8. Visual Resources: The pristine views of the area are one of the most valuable parts of this property. Changing the views for a railroad will diminish the value of the property.

Any impacts to the property in any of the areas above are not acceptable to the property owners or their inheritors. Any damage to the environment must be fully mitigated, repaired, replaced, or provide equivalent monetary compensation for damages. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Michelle Dennis Carpenter