



# SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSION

Willie Grayeyes                      Chairman  
Kenneth Maryboy                      Vice-Chair  
Bruce Adams                      Commissioner  
Mack McDonald                      Administrator

April 6, 2021

Ted Neff, Deputy District Ranger  
Moab Ranger District  
62 East 100 North  
PO Box 386  
Moab, UT 84532

Re: Beaver Creek Restoration Project Proposal

Dear Mr. Neff:

We appreciate that the Forest Service is proposing corrective actions to restore Beaver Creek and an eroded section of a Forest/County road on the southern slopes of the La Sal Mountains. The proposed addition of fill material to County Road D5037 (Forest Road 4732), hardening of the road crossing in Beaver Creek and the addition of beaver dam analogs in Beaver Creek would all improve road condition and public access as well as improve fishery habitat and water quality.

However, we have concerns about the proposed closure and locked public access of County Roads D5037, D5038 and D5039 (Forest Roads 4732 and 4733). We don't understand the rationale for closing these roads after the proposed improvements to the Beaver Creek crossing and nearby roads are completed. The proposed change to administrative use only for these roads would severely limit the public's use of forest lands in this area. These roads currently provide public access for hunting, camping, hiking, exploring, recreational driving and Native American uses of this area. These roads have been open to public use for decades and were approved for public use through at least two Forest Service travel planning processes.

Closure of these roads would be inconsistent with the objectives and policies in the San Juan County Resource Management Plan which provides for an extensive transportation network throughout the County for commercial, recreational and other uses.

We would like to collaborate with you to consider other alternatives to closure of these roads. We are open to pool our resources with yours to solve any issues that may be associated with public uses of these roads. We recommend that you postpone your decision on this proposed action until we can meet with you to consider other options. We look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Willie Grayeyes  
Chairman