



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO**

P.O. Box 1507 / 398 Lewis Street / Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147
Tel (970) 264-8300

January 13, 2021

Ms. Becca Smith
San Juan National Forest
P.O. Box 130
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

RE: Valle Seco 2019 Land Exchange Project

Dear Ms. Smith,

We are writing to today to lend our full support of the proposed Valle Seco 2019 Land Exchange Project which we believe will be a valuable tool for improving severe winter range and providing a crucial migration corridor for elk and mule deer habitat connectivity. We are, however, adamantly opposed to closing and decommissioning NFS Road 653. The BoCC would much rather see keeping the road open for bicycle and pedestrian use and Division of Wildlife and Forest Service motorized vehicle use only. The area in question is a popular spot for mountain biking, hiking and hunting and we believe a road, which is part of the National Forest Service, should be accessible to the public.

We hope that you will agree that the National Forest Service is a public entity and the roads available to access this entity should remain public as well.

Please feel free to contact me if you want to discuss this matter further. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Ronnie Maez
Chairman