

Friends of Old Stage and Gold Camp Roads—Executive Summary March 8, 2022

The situation:

1. Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) started funding two deputy sheriffs three years ago in Teller County as their infrastructure and caretakers were being shot at. Teller County Sheriff Mikesell, CSU and Elk Glade Outfitters note that crime is down substantially since these deputies started patrolling Gold Camp Road.
2. Individuals at Old Stage Stables, Adventures Out West, Bear Trap Ranch, Emerald Valley Ranch, Elk Glade Outfitters, and Cheyenne Propagation Company have all noted an increase in shooting, graffiti (including El Salvadorian gang tagging), trash including landscaping debris ready built for illegal bon fires, homeless squatter camping, drug use and defecation on Old Stage and Gold Camp Roads. El Paso County operators have suffered from the laudable success of the CSU sheriff initiative as the miscreants have been pressured into El Paso County which has **no pro-active law enforcement.**
3. At least four forest fires have occurred on or near Old Stage and Gold Camp Roads in the last year. Seventy five percent were shooting related. Ninety seven percent of forest fires are human-caused and perhaps 25% of forest fires are shooting related. We are a Marshall Fire away from losing the Cheyenne Canyons and Mountain, the zoo, the Broadmoor communities and The Broadmoor.

The Solution:

1. Under the “broken windows” theory, visible signs of crime and anti-social behavior encourage more of the same. Removal of these signs is critical—illegal shooting, graffiti, trash, fires, the homeless squatters, the vandalized signs. Teller County Sheriff Mikesell has confirmed that he can supply a deputy and vehicle for \$85,000 per year to patrol El Paso County. He works well with sheriff candidate Greg Maxwell. Two would provide seven day a week patrolling.
2. Install a gate at the end of the asphalt/beginning of the private easement that closes at 9:00 P.M. to all except those with an access code but allows exit to all.
3. Fund the above and expand signage especially within the easements outside of Pikes Peak National Forest promoting correct behavior and posting the legal consequences for illegal activities, vigilant replacement of vandalized signage and provide for trash/graffiti removal.

The Resources:

1. Solution one needs the support of the El Paso County Sheriff to deputize the Teller County Sheriffs that Sheriff Mikesell can provide. Dale Anderson of Doug Lamborn’s office has reached out to Fort Carson command as we know from Teller County that many of the shooters are soldiers (however, polite when confronted).
2. Richard Skorman suggested the gate idea. Perhaps his replacement, Stephannie Fortune, also a zoo board member, will be an ally. Brett Waters noted below has also been supportive.
3. As for signage, Brett Waters, El Paso County Administrator has been supportive of these efforts and can advise on legal signage and his associate Kevin Mastin, ED of Public Works has offered

to provide trash bags and dump truck removal of collected trash. Commissioners Stan VanderWerf and Cami Bremer have also expressed their support.

4. Fund raising could be immediately and economically accomplished if the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA), which already has credibility would agree to be a “fiscal sponsor” through their 501c3. The initial budget of \$250,000 should be readily raised through interested foundations, The Broadmoor Residential Community who have expressed support and by a mailers to 80906 expressing the urgency of doing what can be done to stop the dreaded but, if nothing is done, inevitable, Cheyenne Mountain Fire.
5. The Gazette has expressed interest in highlighting these concerns which, in conjunction with a mailer, may raise awareness and increase fund raising.

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

--Edmund Burke

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