

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/26/2021 4:44:53 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a long time Gunnison County, Colorado resident, architect and outdoor enthusiast. I enjoy the recreational opportunities of our beautiful public lands especially Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and the Gunnison Forest. I strongly support access, trails, functional trailheads with an emphasis on non-motorized uses. The land degradation, water pollution, erosion, noise and hydrocarbon pollution plus the personal dangers presented by unchecked motorized use runs counter to the long term stewardship of the land.

The increase in population, tourism and public land uses is unavoidable and must be reckoned with as part of any plan. Many of our popular trails are seeing an exponential increase in use. Adding new hiking and biking trails, directional trails where appropriate, trail system maintenance and rerouting where erosion or overuse has occurred is an urgent need to serve the increase of visitors. Infrastructure, including toilet facilities at the most popular trail heads will protect the fragile ecosystem and concentrate motorized use to areas designed for it. The elimination and restoration of unauthorized motorized uses should be part of any comprehensive plan.

I generally do not support aggressive law enforcement presence in any setting. However illegal camping, off road unauthorized motorized use and other transgressions need to be addressed to protect our public lands for future generations.

I recognize and support the valuable work that Gunnison Public Lands Initiative has done to bring many visions to a comprehensive plan for the Special Management Areas.

In addition, I strongly support and agree with the detailed analysis and comments that the Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association (CBMBA) has provided to this commission. CBMBA has a very large membership of both local constituents and visitors to our surrounding forests. CBMBA serves an essential role as stewards of our public lands providing trail building, maintenance, outreach and have a close working relationship with the Forest Service as well as many local and national organizations dedicated to protecting the value of our public lands. They have spent countless hours compiling comments that represent their diverse membership and their mission.

Thank you.