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First name: Clare

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: GMUG,

We are Gunnison Valley Residents and are writing to express our opinion on the Revised Draft Forest Plan. We feel very strongly about the opposition of Proposition D. We want to express why we believe it is important to oppose Proposition D. We fear that there will be increased avalanche risk in areas that do allow snowmobile traffic, decreased areas for the adaptive community to access, ensure OSV access to the West Brush Creek Drainage is maintained, support for snowmobile winter access to Pearl Pass, and lastly the importance of keeping public lands public.

We recreate responsibly here in the Gunnison valley, and appreciate snowmobiling in the Poverty Gulch area. If Proposition D is chosen, not only would it limit 45 % of current terrain for snowmobiling, but it would increase traffic in areas that do allow snowmobiling. We are concerned because this is going to push an already growing recreation group into the same areas. Having more people recreating in the same area is going to increase avalanche risk. Kebler Trailhead is already very busy. If Poverty Gulch is designated for no motorized use, Kebler pass will see this increase in traffic.

Next, there are individuals who rely on snowmobile access in order to recreate because they don't physically have the means to be able to skin out. I am speaking for the adaptive community. Furthermore, we strongly believe that OSV access to the West Brush Creek Drainage be maintained. This will keep historical terrain open for hybrid users that will otherwise not be accessible. This helps disperse traffic throughout the North Valley which is important with the increased traffic that we are seeing. For this reason, winter access to Pearl Pass would also be beneficial.

The Backcountry is an iconic place in the Crested Butte area. We are in a time where seeking solace, and getting outside is imperative for mental health and wellbeing. Public lands are public. Please take into consideration our opposition to Proposition D.

Thank you for your time,

Clare and Josh Frock