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First name: John

Last name: Hatch

Organization: URAT (Uintah Riders All Terrain) Snowmobilers

Title:

Comments: February, 14, 2022

Ashley National Forest

Attn: Forest Revision Plan

355 N Vernal Ave.

Vernal, UT 84078

To Whom it may concern,

After many hours of review of the Alternatives that could manage the Ashley National Forest and Recreation Area, Alternative D best protects this valuable resource and allows a wide variety of recreational opportunities for the widest variety of the public. Alternative D also accommodates grazing, logging, and mining while also protecting this valuable resource.

Management criteria contained in Alternatives B and C are far too primitive for balanced recreation, grazing, mining, fire management, trail maintenance, logging, and deprive the general public access to the lands that we all cherish and enjoy.

The amount of wilderness recommended in Alternatives B and C, is not necessary, does not exactly meet the criteria of wilderness designation, and will limit access to all but special interest, only allowing a select few to utilize our public lands. At the present time we have the High Uinta Wilderness, which encompasses 456,705 acres of designated wilderness in very close proximity to much of the recommended wilderness in Alternatives B and C.

Creation of these recommended wilderness areas could prohibit present and future motorized trails to access the North Slope of the Uintas, as well as portions of Utah such as the Bear River Service which could be of economic benefit and the enjoyment of many.

There are a few items that should have been addressed in Alternative D, such as;

Creation of Mountain Bike Trails: Other Forests in the US should be studied and used as models as each trail should have multiple users. Mountain bikes, motorcycles, hiking, and horses. Many could be utilized as cross country ski trails and/or snowmobile trails in the winter months since they are narrow and would not require restrictions adjacent to these single track trails.

Logging: More responsible logging. Since a drought cycle seems to be upon us, it makes sense to allow more timber to be harvested on the Ashley for consumer needs as well as fire prevention and control of wild fires.

Promotion: Promoting non-motorized and motorized recreation on the Ashley National Forest. More user friendly maps that include roads, trails, mountains, streams, lakes, elevations, etc.

Education: Workshops, field trips, literature, youth programs, and other methods to educate the general public (motorized and non-motorized) in ecological forest use and good stewardship of our forests.

We have seen an increase of population of 63.5% in Uintah County, 49% in Duchesne County, and 38% in Daggett County in the last 18 years. We can expect to see an increase in forest use by all forest users as the

population increases in the future. We have the opportunity to manage these lands responsibly, reasonably, and for many to enjoy for many years to come.

As an Ashley National Forest user, both motorized and non-motorized, in my opinion, and the opinion of the URAT Snowmobile members, Alternative D is the best alternative for the economic benefit of Uintah, Daggett, and Duchesne Counties as well as the State of Utah and the United States of America.

Please keep in mind. US Department of Agriculture. The Land of Many Uses.

Sincerely,
John R Hatch