

United Four Wheel Drive Associations



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Phone for Jerry Smith – (970)433-6021

To: **Moab Ranger District**

62 East 100 North

PO Box 386

Moab, UT 84532

Phone: 435-259-7155

Re: **Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan**

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept the following comments regarding the **Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan** presently taking place.

The United Four Wheel Drive Associations had submitted requests for changes of the “No motorized use” of what is known locally as the “Little Forest”. It is the area bordered by the JB Ranch on the Utah State line, the BLM to the south, and the Sky Mesa Ranch on the south, east, and north.

We have asked that a long closed two-track road/trail be reopened in a sustainable manner that would connect the road to

Pace Lake in Sinbad Valley and beyond to the “Little Forest” boundary and then cross the Little Forest and enter the southern Sky Mesa Ranch and then onto a road that takes one back to the John Brown Road.

I attended meetings about this planning years ago and submitted a Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM Field Office in Grand Junction and the Owner of the Sky Mesa Ranch for an easement on an existing road in the southern end of the ranch. The purpose of the memorandum was that the Manti- La Sal National Forest would follow through and secure the easement in perpetuity and then open the corridor to reestablish the two-track and complete the estimated 30-mile loop from Hwy 141 at the mouth of Salt Creek to the John Brown Road.

At the time of the meetings in Moab when I submitted this proposal, it was acknowledged that many requests by primarily hunters wanting access to this small National Forest be made. The four-wheeling public would add to that desire and we have laid much of the groundwork for this to happen.

If there is a problem finding the MOU for the easement, please contact Andy Windsor at the Grand Junction BLM office. I’m sure he would send a new copy of the MOU and answer most of any questions you may have.

When all of this comes together, members of the Grand Mesa Jeep Club of Grand Junction would volunteer to clear what brush is necessary and reopen the route that is still plain to see. To make it sustainable through some low places, small rerouting may

be desirable. I have photos of much of the trail in question if that would be of value to your work.

My phone number is at the top of this letter and my email is - onejerrysmith@gmail.com

I would help with anything I might to assist in making this connector trail a working and legal trail.

Sincerely,

Jerry Smith
Director of Environmental Affairs - United Four Wheel Drive
Associations
VP- Colorado 4wd Association
Director – Grand Mesa Jeep Club