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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) Forest Plan Revision #51806. After reviewing the different alternatives available it is clear to me which options are the best for utilization of the GMUG managed lands. Alternative C offers the best options to allow new and badly needed opportunities for motorized recreation use on GMUG managed lands. My family has decades of tradition enjoying GMUG lands by way of snowmobiling, dirt-biking, and four-wheeling. My most cherished memories I have growing up are times recreating with motorized applications on the great lands managed by the FS in Southern Colorado. This includes priceless times spent with my special needs Sister, who could not enjoy these public lands without the assistance of motorized recreation. My spouse and I spend most weekends sharing the great opportunities that the GMUG provides for responsible motorized recreation with our children. As a productive and involved member of communities in Southern Colorado, I am very aware of the many businesses that directly depend on the financial benefits that motorized recreation brings to the region.

Over the last decade motorized use in the GMUG seems to continually grow creating situations where trails and areas open for motorized see much more use than in the past. So, under Alternative D that reduces areas for motorized use, it would only worsen and significantly negatively impact the few remaining areas for motorized use. Under Alternative D the opportunities for me and my family to enjoy GMUG managed lands as we desire, would have an overwhelmingly negative impact. Reflecting on the many memories with my family and motorized use are priceless, and it would be a true tragedy if my children are not afforded the same opportunity. Alternative D would be truly appalling for me and my children as they would not be afforded the same opportunities to share these lands with their children as well as me as their Grandparent. Also, Alternative D would have dire impacts to many of tourist-oriented economies in Southern Colorado, that depend on the financial benefits motorized use brings to the region. Southern Colorado currently provides some of the most extensive opportunities for roadless recreation in the many Federally protected Wilderness areas in the GMUG managed region. Wilderness areas coupled with currently road-less/ non-motorized areas as designed see little use comparatively to areas of motorized use, and there is currently bountiful opportunities for those that seek roadless areas to recreation in. So, to add to the already extensive non-motorized lands in the GMUG under Alternative D would provide little benefit to the overwhelming majority of people that would only choose to enjoy the GMUG managed lands by way of responsible motorized recreational use.

With the aforementioned reasons, me and my family support Alternative C as the overwhelming best use of GMUG managed lands. This day in age the best prescription to minimize the impacts of motorized recreational use is to open new areas for motorized use. As providing expanded areas would dilute the amount of concentrated travel on trails and areas for over the snow motorized travel. Also, with the aforementioned reasons we adamantly oppose the proposed Alternative D. As Alternative D would only concentrate the many motorized users seeking opportunities to recreate on their public lands. Couple that with the significant loss of financial contributions to communities in Southern Colorado, Alternative D would be a truly tragic outcome for the use of GMUG lands. With his said and the many perspectives that are weighing in on the proposed Alternatives, going with Alternative A may be a middle of the road route to please those that seek various avenues to recreate on GMUG managed lands. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to comment on this very important topic to my family. As the decisions made from this will have significant impacts on how we recreate and desire to enjoy the public lands managed by the GMUG NF.

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