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First name: Michael

Last name: Davis

Organization: Utah Snowmobile Association

Title: Public Lands Director

Comments: Utah Snowmobile Association
Ashley National Forest Plan
To whom it may concern,
On behalf of the Utah Snowmobile Association, we are submitting this comment in regard to the latest DEIS and Ashley NF revision plan. We as an association strongly support Alternative D. We feel that this alternative allows for the most flexibility focusing on assets, management, and accessibility. The Utah Snowmobile Association has three main focuses.
[bull] Avalanche awareness and advocacy.
[bull] Educating Utah's snowmobile families with good etiquette and responsibility as it pertains to snowmobiling in the backcountry.
[bull] Public lands awareness.
As it stands, the already established High Uintas Wilderness encompasses 456,705 acres and stretches nearly 60 miles east to west. It is also the largest Wilderness in Utah. We feel like this gives an ample amount of area for recreationalists who seek this kind of environment for recreating. With that stated, we strongly oppose Alternatives B and C. Snowmobiling in Utah has seen a significant increase in users in the last 10 years. As visitation continues to increase in the Ashley (both summer and winter) we feel that Alternative D would allow for the most flexibility to properly establish, and manage, more infrastructure in the forest. This would allow a better experience for users and combat overcrowding. Alternative D also allows for added fire suppression and resources to help combat and decrease the violent forest fire behavior we see today. Per the USDA [Idquo]science you can use[rduo] bulletin dated January/February 2022[hellip] It summarizes that fire, drought, and lack of mechanical forest protection is only delaying the reproduction of our forests. Possibly by hundreds of years. The forest needs to allow access for more fire and fuels management in order to suppress the violent nature of today's forest fires. Alternative D allows for this to happen. In closing, On behalf of the association, we strongly support Alt D. We feel that this would allow for the best experience for current and future users. This alternative allows for the most flexibility to adapt to, and manage, recreation growth all while combating the violent destruction brought on by forest fires. Thank you, and please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.
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Public Lands Director
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