Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/14/2024 6:00:00 AM First name: Katherine Last name: Baer Organization: Title: Comments: Thank you for taking on this important project and allowing for comments:

Enjoyable opportunities to experience the great outdoors, especially during our long, dark and cold winters in the San Luis Valley, is of utmost importance to many of us for our well-being. I cherish every opportunity I have to cross-country ski and snowshoe in many areas of the RGNF including Rock Creek Archery Area, Big Meadows, the Upper Rio Grande trails near Creede, the tower on top of Wolf Creek Pass, the groomed area below the ski area as well as the areas by the various yurts on Cumbres-La Manga passes. The amazing scenery amidst the tranquility is ever so special!

However, when startlingly noisy and stinky smelling OSV[rsquo]s come by, it ruins that experience, and also has a negative impact on the natural world of the forest. Wildlife are stressed enough in winter and don[rsquo]t need further unnecessary traumas like loud noise and pollution from OSV[rsquo]s.

The RGNF is a very large area indeed. I[rsquo]m sure it is very challenging to manage the many aspects, and sometimes conflicting views that arise. I believe the first and foremost priority is to protect the environment - the trees, the wildlife, the water, the air - all of it! And it is very important to take special considerations of the negative impacts from human activities on the fragile and endangered plants and animals.

Given the vast area, it would be much easier to manage limitations on OSV use vs the widespread access to 73% of the area. Designated areas need to be established for the OSV[rsquo]s and non-OSV use that are clearly marked. There is more than enough room to offer wonderful opportunities for all of us while still protecting the natural habitat.