

February 25, 2015

Matthew Basham  
P.O. Box 662  
310 Carbonate  
Ophir, CO 81426  
970-728-0343

GMUG National Forest  
Attn.: Judy Schutza  
P.O. Box 388  
Norwood, CO 81423

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to voice my opinion in regards to any future alterations of the current GMUG (Grand Mesa Uncompahgre Gunnison) National Forest OSV (over snow vehicle) travel management plan.

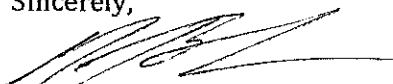
I would like to strongly suggest that the USFS consider altering the OSV restricted area within the Ophir valley. The current designated access route to the summit of Ophir pass obviously was not created with the consideration of the terrain in a winter season environment. I believe to better accommodate OSV access and to create a safer environment for all user groups a more appropriate OSV restricted boundary line should be used. I believe that by allowing snowmobile travel through the Ophir valley (East of the Town of Ophir) at the bottom of the Valley East to the summit of Ophir pass is a more appropriate designated OSV route. Also by allowing a snowmobiler a reasonable opportunity to safely evaluate, inspect and impact the surrounding slopes is critical to a safer means of travel. A more appropriate OSV boundary line would be to restrict OSV travel South of the power lines, following the power lines to upper ponds, where the OSV boundary line would then travel directly South to the summit of peak 12,153, and then following the ridge East to the San Juan National Forest boundary.

I also wish to express my desire for the USFS to continue to allow for OSV open riding North of the Ophir valley OSV boundary, including the various above tree line basins (Bridal Veil, La Junta, Bear Creek, Lena & Turkey Creek) surrounding the OSV restricted area of the Telluride Ski Area boundary. Although this terrain poses many topographical challenges many snowmobile enthusiasts view these challenges as "world class." Historically this open OSV riding area has not presented any conflicts, user problems or wildlife challenges.

I feel that with the current environmental changes, the improvement in OSV technology and improved operator skills and abilities that it is imperative to provide and offer reasonable OSV terrain for the modern OSV enthusiasts within our National Forest. The modern day OSV enthusiast desires snow levels and characteristics that are often limited to above tree line terrain.

I appreciate the opportunity in expressing my opinion regarding the current and future OSV travel management plan. I wish the USFS the best of luck in creating a travel plan that best fits our GMUG National Forest.

Sincerely,



Matthew Basham  
Ophir, CO