

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/7/2017 9:54:26 PM

First name: Matt

Last name: Schiltz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: GMUG Forest Plan Comments

Dear GMUG Forest Planners,

Greetings. My name is Matt Schiltz. I am a northern Colorado resident, avid OHV rider (particularly on motorized singletrack), and a professional forester.

The comments that I would like to suggest to you as you begin your planning process have to do with two topics; OHV access and forest management.

The GMUG offers some of the best OHV access in the state. The motorized single-track in particular is phenomenal, offering numerous challenges to riders, long loops and beautiful scenery. Myself, and many other riders, are willing to travel many hours to seek out these sorts of experiences. But all too often, trail systems of this caliber get shut down for reasons that can be managed through public education, trail maintenance, and good planning.

As a forester in northern Colorado I have experienced, first hand, the impacts and causes of the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic. You will likely experience similar challenges with the spruce beetle in the coming years and proactive forest management will be key to resolving issues effectively. I would recommend that you increase the number of forest product sales as they are the best tool for implementing cost effective treatments to salvage dead timber, remove hazard trees for public safety and reduce hazardous fuels.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and I look forward to providing future input as you work through the process.

Sincerely,

Matt Schiltz