

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/31/2017 12:08:58 AM

First name: Dave

Last name: Grossman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I urge the planning team of the GMUG Forest Plan include consideration for mechanical winter recreation use within the GMUG Forest. Currently there is no management guidance or official opportunity for snow biking (winter fat biking) on the Grand Mesa or many sections of the GMUG. Although fat bikes are relatively new, they are the fastest growing segment of the cycling industry and an excellent, low impact, clean method of winter recreation that is very compatible with other recreation users, wildlife and landscapes.

Fat bikes allow riders to enjoy forest recreation opportunities in the winter in a similar manner to summer cycling. They are best used on dedicated, maintained snow biking trails, but are capable of sharing, where appropriate and necessary, packed trails for other purposes. I request consideration of applying summer mountain biking access and management policies to winter activity allowing the use of the summer singletrack trail systems when covered in snow and allow for maintenance activities necessary to maintain the trails in the winter.

The Grand Mesa National and Uncompaghre National Forests both offer a variety of excellent snow biking locations that overlay summer mountain bike trails. The top of the Grand Mesa trails including Mesa Top, Flowing Park, Crane Lake, and most of the Grand Mesa South of HWY 65 offer excellent conditions for snow biking. On the Uncompaghre Forest, the singletrack trails around Turkey Flats offer good snow biking trail opportunities with close access from Grand Junction.

Snow biking trails require regular maintenance during the winter to maintain conditions for fun, effective, safe recreation. This maintenance can include grooming activities similar to nordic trail systems with smaller grooming tools, canopy clearing activities to address trees and undergrowth that is impacting trails.

I appreciate your consideration of snow biking within the GMUG Forest Plan and look forward to new, expanded opportunities to ride the forests of the GMUG in the winter.