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First name: c

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my opposition to increasing motorized access to our national forests. I understand that the motorized community does have a right to use public land. However, increasing access at the detriment to non-motorized users is a terribly unfair to the majority of users. In the Crested Butte area, the noise and dust is too bad in high season, that my friends and I won't ride our bicycles on most forest roads. The damage done is unconscionable. I would invite you to visit the head of any valley in the area to view the tracks left in alpine tundra left by off-road vehicles along with trails that have been so torn up as to make them unusable leading to other vehicles driving around creating huge scars.

Another issue is the noise. I personally know of individuals who feel that it is OK to modify or remove mufflers, for whatever reason I do not understand, leading to noise pollution that should not exist in the forest. Until there is some sort of inspection of off-road vehicles we don't need more noise.

Finally, the snow machine traffic is already so bad that it is hard to find a place to ski that has not been torn up by snow mobiles.

I don't know where the numbers have come from indicating that mountain biking and hiking is diminishing. However, I would seriously look carefully at the parameters of that study. From my observations, the empirical evidence does not support that conclusion at all.

Charles Welch