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First name: Ethel

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: -Dispersed Camping is becoming a big issue in the drainages near CB. The draft plan addresses some of it, but possibly they need to focus a little more on the issue. I believe the 300' rule is in direct contradiction with what we are trying to accomplish surrounding the increasing impacts from all the campers. This rule states you can drive off road mostly anywhere in the Gunnison forest to get to a camping site. I feel the rule needs to be changed to something much less, like 30'. And in highly used areas it needs to be camping in designated areas only so people can't drive off road at all. This includes Slate, Washington, Gothic, Cement, Taylor, etc. I also think we need a couple more developed campgrounds in the Slate, Washington Gulch, on Kebler, and in town; we need more spots added to the already available campgrounds and we need bathrooms at more trailheads. Composting toilets that don't need to be emptied might be a good solution.

-We need more focus on non-motorized areas for both winter and summer. After reading a good part of several of the documents, I feel the closing statements of the draft which the CB News quoted was misleading, and also that the data in the documents is contradictory in different sections. The data in the document clearly states that in Colorado in summer as of 2014: 20% of users were motorized and 80% non-motorized, and in winter 44% motorized and 56% non-motorized. There are more motorized trails than non-motorized in the non-wilderness of the GMUG. And even though hiking, horseback riding and mtn biking are allowed on many of these motorized trails, these uses may not be compatible with motorized uses.

Although I see the benefits of motorized use for individuals and for the economy of our towns, motorized clearly has a higher impact on trails in the summer and on quiet users and wildlife in winter and summer. The 2014 SCORP report (used as a resource for the draft plan) also states that in Colorado the 4 most important outdoor activities were walking, hiking, backpacking and picnics, then 5th was fishing. As we know these are all very important in our community as are mountain biking and human powered skiing. So I do not believe motorized is more prevalent.

I also think the GMUG planning team should seriously look at the permitting of the rental and delivery businesses for ATV's OHVs, UTVs, and snowmobiles. It may have a lot more possibility for impact due to the inexperienced nature of some of the people who rent opposed to people who own their own ATV or snowmobile. Global warming, which is addressed in the document, is not stated in relation to motorized use. But motorized use probably adds significantly more to global warming than mountain biking or hiking.

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