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Comments: Mountain biking and Non motorized use has been identified by the Forest Service as an emerging trend. Non motorized use is a low impact use with sustainable trails.

2. Within the GMUG, nonmotorized recreation is the most common activity, and it has seen the largest increase in participation rates over the past several years. 80% of GMUG summer activity is nonmotorized, and both mountain biking and hiking participation each increased from 1% in 2009 to 6% in 2014. These large increases in nonmotorized activity occurred while motorized recreation stayed steady at 5%.

3. Currently the Uncompahgre Plateau is lacking quality trail experiences for nonmotorized users. The vast majority of trails are motorized. These trails, while open to mountain bikes and other nonmotorized users, are not enjoyable or sought out by these users because they are not quiet, are not loops (they require either out and back routes or riding on a road) and large sections of the trails are eroded and have steep, unsustainable grades.

4. Given the relatively uncrowded nature of the Uncompahgre Plateau it is well suited to handle an expansion of nonmotorized trails to accommodate the increase in nonmotorized visitors. The existing motorized trails should have their unsustainable sections rerouted and loops could be created.

5. An expansion of quality nonmotorized trails on the Uncompahgre plateau would accommodate the expansion of nonmotorized users and decrease conflict by drawing users away from more crowded areas within the GMUG.