

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/27/2018 4:54:29 PM

First name: Michael

Last name: Nothnagel

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Things to consider

Hello,

My name is Michael Nothnagel, I am an avid 4x4 enthusiast as well as a hiker, camper, and conservationist. I support Stay the Trail Colorado and practice Leave No Trace techniques. I am an active member of the Larimer County 4x4 club (the Mountaineers), serving as a Trip Planner for 2018, and a member of Colorado 4x4 Rescue & Recovery. I would like to ask you to consider these items when revising your management plan:

1. Equal access for all. Not everyone is able to leave their vehicle to hike or bike into an area and motorized access to the trails is the only way they are able to enjoy these remote areas.
2. Money. I read somewhere that the motorized community spent roughly \$3 billion during 2016 in Colorado alone. How many small towns rely on that revenue? The motorized community needs fuel, food, lodging, and often some sort of keepsake to fondly look back at their experience. Additionally, all equipment breaks at some point and while many of the motorized community are able to perform many of their own repairs, they have to buy the parts and some repairs just have to be performed by a professional. My family of 4 (counting our German Shepherd) spent a week in Buena Vista last summer and during that week, fueled every day, dined at least twice a day at a local restaurant, stayed at a cute little Air BnB, ran by a local family. I don't remember what the total bill for our vacation was, but it was well within the \$3-5000 range. We also couldn't help but notice the overwhelming number of 4x4 vehicles in town, with a significant number of those being from states other than our own.
3. Extra hands. Many of the motorized community work directly with the Forestry Service through volunteering to maintain public use areas and to raise awareness of responsible practices.

There are good and bad elements in every group of people and there are very few people who are members of only one group. As I mention above, while I belong to the motorized community, I am also somewhat of a "tree hugger" and it serves both of these passions to have motorized and non-motorized access to all trails that can physically accommodate them. I know it takes man power and money to keep anything operating, please don't cut off your noses to spite your face because a few radicals with a blow horn are saying that all of this or that group of people are bad and are only contributing to a problem. It takes everyone working together.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Nothnagel, M.S. Chemistry
Trip Planner 2018, Mountaineers 4x4 club
Member Colorado 4x4 Rescue & Recovery