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First name: Jeff

Last name: Ruiter

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

To the U.S. Forest Service,

First of all, thank you for dedicated and hard-work. You are truly an outstanding organization that benefits the people of this country and those who visit our great country. Thank you for all you do.

As a responsible user of the national lands, I am most grateful for the opportunity to comment on the intentions to revise the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest and Resource Management Plan. I am 29 years old, married and have two kids currently. I can't imagine what life would be like without our public lands.

As a family we truly enjoy the great outdoors as often as possible. This includes, camping, hiking, mountain biking, recreational motorized trails and hunting. I understand the importance of sustainability of our trails. My family and I believe that we need to keep trails open and sustainable for those using motorized vehicles. It is a hobby that we enjoy that keeps my children outside and off of video games. It gives them a sense of exploration. It teaches them to respect the land, it gives them the opportunity to see amazing places and it also gives them an outlet from the everyday struggles and pressures of bullying, stress, and hardships of being a child.

We are a family who uses the forest lands for many uses and believe in the sharing and co-existing with all forms of land use. I see no reason why hikers, mountain bikers, horse-riders, campers, hunters and more can't get share our great natural resources in a responsible sustainable way.

I give up my time and resources to help keep our trails in good shape. By volunteering with groups such as Stay The Trail. I have spent many weekends in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests working on the trails including erosion control and upkeep. I have a business as well that I donate equipment to help on the volunteer days. I also believe the economic impact that local businesses get from motorized trail users would be detrimental if they lost these visitors. Gas, food and supplies are needed for recreation and helps our local businesses here in Colorado and provides tax money. We would happily pay more than the current daily or annual fees for more trails. Please know this going forward.

I would you ask that consider keeping with the four 2012 planning rule focus of sustainable recreation, social, economic and ecological sustainability and the ability to work side by side with all users of the trail systems.

Thank you kindly,

Jeff Ruiter

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Jeff Rutter