

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/2/2018 7:26:25 PM

First name: Robert

Last name: Gallegos

Organization: Delta SnoKrusers Snowmobile Club, Inc.

Title: President

Comments: The Delta SnoKrusers Snowmobile Club, Inc. of Delta County, Colorado understands that the US Forest Service has been mandated to rewrite the Plan.

We would like to speak in regards to the Grand Mesa National Forest. We previously worked with the Forest Service to determine a plan that worked for winter recreation on Grand Mesa. The Grand Mesa Nordic Ski Council and the area snowmobile clubs, working with the Forest Service agreed to designated ski areas at Sky Way and Ward Lake area, with a connecting snowmobile trail through the SKy Way area. Our club grooms 136.5 miles of multi-use trail and maintains and marks many more miles of trail on Grand Mesa. The Over the Snow vehicle registrations and volunteers pay for the snowmobile grooming program on Grand Mesa. If anything, we would like to see that any user on the groomed trails pay for an annual OSV sticker to help fund the grooming program.

Rather than putting more restrictions on the GMUG, we would like to see less restrictions. There are already over 3.5 million acres of designated wilderness lands in Colorado. We do not need more restricted access, but would like to see more areas opened up for both winter and summer multiple use recreation. In the past, most of the GMUG was inventoried and was released from the possibility of wilderness and other areas of Colorado were then designated wilderness. We also do not support the San Juan Wilderness Legislation.

There should not be an exclusionary corridor area around our National Trail Systems. The American Discovery Trail utilizes current ATV and snowmobile trails and roads, not designated hiking trails across Grand Mesa.

Managing the health of the GMUG forests should be a priority. As users of the Grand Mesa National Forest we are well aware of the devastation that is occurring due to our aging forest and also the beetle. A more proactive plan needs to be implemented to stop and or clean up the devastation. Downed and falling trees are a safety hazard and make the forest ripe for fire.

Basically, we believe the current plan on Grand Mesa is working in regards to people, recreation and wildlife. If anything, enforce the rules that are already written.

Keep the plan simple and let the public share the national forests of the GMUG. By keeping the plan simple, public input can be included in future forest service decisions.

Thank you in advance for considering the snowmobile community of Grand Mesa. We provide economical support to Grand Mesa, the surrounding communities and across the state, as snowmobilers travel from out of state to access Grand Mesa.

Sincerely,

The Delta SnoKrusers Snowmobile Club, Inc.