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Organization:

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Comments: Hi Brittany,

I would like to voice my opinion on the matter of the GMUG Wilderness process. Thank you for taking the time to read it!

I am a 5th generation Coloradoan and love the outdoors. I hike, bike, dirt bike, ski, and snowmobile. I love the mountains and they are home to me and my family and friends. While Wilderness areas have their benefits, there is already 553,800 acres of Wilderness and there is not a need for more as it is far too restrictive on user access. I am all for preserving areas for future generations to enjoy, however I do not think removing the majority recreation groups from accessing an area is the correct way to go about doing it. Restricting Development and Extraction is great but for preservation but the removal of all mechanized access it just plain wrong and benefits a small, select group of people. In general mechanized/motorized access has little effect in an area. People have used machines to access areas for generations and wildlife is thriving! All it takes is one idiot to ruin it for a whole group of users, and these idiots exist in all of the user groups, including hikers.

The Motorsports industry is a major contributor to the local and state economies and access for the industry needs to be considered as well. Rather than the continual pursuit of outright banning of motorized recreation why not consider a designation that restricts Extraction and Development while preserving the access for ALL user groups rather than a select few? Please consider not moving forward with a Wilderness designation as it unfairly removes the majority of user groups. The current travel plan is working quite well in reality. The loudest voices typically come from the fewest users who do not wish to share the public lands with their fellow outdoor enthusiasts. Thank you for your time!

-Billy DeLaCroix