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First name: Julie

Last name: Hager

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello!

I am writing concerning the new forest plan. I am requesting that there is NO reduction in motorized access. Over the past 20 years, we have lost so much riding area and the trails are overly congested. My number one reason for this request is for accessibility for the disabled, who are unable to enjoy the forest otherwise. My husband has Huntington's disease which is similar to having ALS, Parkinson's and Alzheimers all at the same time. It is fatal and hereditary, so our children have a 50% chance of developing symptoms in their 30's. My husband knows more of the mountains than most people and has been riding his own sled and dirt bike, horses, and atvs since the 1970s, carrying on a family tradition of responsible motorized recreation for several generations. We also hike, ski, snowshoe, hunt and fish. As his disease progresses he is no longer able to hike. He can no longer hunt or fish. He can no longer ride a horse. He loves the forest lands he has used for the past nearly 50 years, but the only way we can get him to his favorite places is with driving him out as a passenger on an ATV or sled. Please don't take that away from him. Additionally, please do not take those memories and traditions away from our family for my children's sake. They are 18 and 15. They may only have another 15 years to enjoy the mountains before they are also restricted to ATVs. The only time I feel peace is on a mountain in the dead of winter on my sled. I rarely can go, because it requires me finding someone to care for my husband while I am gone, and then dealing with dragging a trailer and trying to park in overcrowded parking lots. I don't like fighting crowds in parking lots or on trails. Please please PLEASE do not reduce the riding area available to motorized recreation. I'm already depressed enough about not riding as it is, and I want to be able to share this with my husband and kids before they are complete invalids who can no longer speak, eat or walk.

Thank you.