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Organization: PAPA

Title: ambassador

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I have reviewed the current GMUG Forest Plan Revision Working Draft and wish to express a major concern. It appears as though within the general forest, a significant portion of terrain within the Ophir valley, Ophir Pass, Blixt Pass, Lewis Lake, Bridal Veil Basin, Blue Lakes, Mudd Lakes, Ingraham Basin and Black Bear Pass which has historically been open to over snow vehicle (OSV) travel has been removed from open OSV and changed to a restricted non-motorized status.

Not allowing access over Ophir Pass into the neighboring open OSV terrain in the San Juan National Forest does not promote a cohesive forest plan in conjunction with the neighboring San Juan forest. By denying OSV access over Ophir Pass to the open OSV terrain you are encouraging a local OSV community to travel out of the way upwards of two hours over two mountain passes (Dallas Divide & Red Mtn. Pass) in order to access terrain that has typically been accessible within a few minutes drive.

The regional OSV community has lost a significant amount of open OSV terrain within the last two decades. Statewide the amount of open OSV terrain existing above tree line is minimal. With the removal of so much above tree line terrain from the OSV community, this current working draft is not considering how valuable such unique terrain is to the OSV community locally and statewide. The loss of this above tree line terrain is a negative impact on the regional and statewide OSV community.

I appreciate the time and effort in looking into my concerns. I also plan on expressing these concerns directly by attending one or more of the "open house" opportunities and look forward to the possibility of finding a compromise that doesn't negatively affect the OSV community to such a degree.

Sincerely,

Matthew Basham