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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I am not in favor of the proposed recreation changes at Sage Hen.

My wife and I use the area a lot. We hike and ride horses there. Sage Hen is a special place as it is, and it would be a mistake to mess with it.

My concerns with the proposed ATV access are:

- 1.) There is no infrastructure in place to support greatly increased use. There are no trash bins, trash collection, toilet facilities, etc.
- 2.) If the infrastructure were in place, somebody (the Forest Service? the County?) would need to service said toilets, empty the trash, etc. It wouldn't be enough to just put the facilities out there and leave them.
- 3.) There would need to be a lot more trailer parking at Sage Hen than there is now.
- 4.) Adding more facilities, buildings and parking will detract from the peace and quiet in the area
- 5.) If the parking and facilities were in place, a road through Sage Hen makes it easier for irresponsible people and vandals to scatter trash throughout the area.

I don't see having a through route from Moab to Cortez as being even a vaguely positive thing. Especially at the cost of a place as special as Sage Hen.

I'm also not in favor of closing off Winter access to the area for big game management purposes. I would want to see hard data demonstrating that declines in big game populations are related specifically to hiker/horse access to Sage Hen, and are not instead the result of larger, regional issues.

It's a mystery to me how you can suggest opening up the area to motorized access with one breath and talk about shutting off all access with the next.