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Comments: 25 years ago when I first began spending time in the Sage Hen area it was sadly scarred from overuse, uncontrolled motorized vehicular traffic, the residual effects of the the McPhee project, and excessive partying along the banks of the reservoir. The trails were a random mixture of dead end roads and deeply eroded single tracks. Today, the area is a model of how a well-managed mixed use natural area can recover. The closures to camping and motorized vehicles along with excellent trail building and maintenance by local mountain biker groups and horsemen have created a sublime wild area that is enjoyed by a wonderful variety of horsemen, bikers, hikers, and trail runners like me. The wild grasses and wild flowers have re-established dominance where previously there was scarred, bare dirt and erosion.

It is distressing to consider re-opening the area to motorized traffic. Such traffic will certainly have a negative, destructive impact on the harmony and generosity by the current users. Certainly there are other routes available to carry the 4-wheel traffic that is suggested for Sage Hen.

It's taken a quarter of a century for the area to heal after our overuse and mismanagement. While my presence on or near their routes will not impact those 4-wheelers, it is absolutely certain that their presence in the area will have a negative impact on the experience of the horsemen, bikers, and hikers, and runners who currently enjoy the peace and beauty of the Sage Hen area. One need look no further than the nightmare that Silverton is experiencing to realize that there are some places that are best left free from the incursion of jeeps, ATVs, and side-by-sides.

Please keep motorized traffic out of Sage Hen.