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First name: Patricia

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To BLM,

Thank you for all the hard work you are doing to protect our forests and natural resources.

I live in Moab and feel compelled to speak out about the incredible invasion of motorised noise on BLM land. It is almost impossible to get away from it!

I hike around the Moab area regularly and have done for 20 years. I now have to plan where and when I go into the backcountry so that I can enjoy the outdoors in the quiet, and that takes serious thought and driving further. The noise of the UTV's is everywhere! Go hiking you hear them, go biking you hear them, go skiing you hear them.

Not long ago I hiked Behind The Rocks and the noise of UTV's, a continuous line of them, driving Kane Creek road was unbelievable with the noise bouncing off the canyon walls and rising up to where I was trying to find peace and quiet.

The impact of UTV's goes far, far beyond where they are actually recreating, it changes the outdoor experience for everyone within ear shot, which can be up to a mile away.

Please, please please limit the amount of trails and areas where UTV's can recreate. When you add up the miles of trails UTV's can use include the miles of trails they are ostensibly using by taking away the quiet for others.

When UTV's become electric then it's a different story and more trails should be accessible to them but as long as they take up so much 'air space' with their noise they should be limited to small 'sacrifice areas'.

I think that Sand Flats should be a Non Motorised area. But until that time comes entry to Sand Flats should be by permit only. Like going on a river trip or planning to stay at a campground a permit should be needed. Sand Flats is overrun!

Please take my comment to heart and keep some areas pristine and noise free for the vast majority of us who use BLM land.

Thank You!