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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Manti-La Sal National Forest Management Plan.

I have visited the Manti-La Sal National Forest over the last several years. Enjoyed the trails and observed the rules to TREAD Lightly. I have visited and or hunted most areas of our Mani-La Sal National Forest and fear the liberal minded leadership propagating an anti-access doctrine by limiting uses as a result of the policies of the current federal administration. Will there be further restrictions of open access to our public lands as a result?

In recent years it has been argued publicly, in numerous articles by progressive and environmental organizations, that multiple use of public lands in the West is the wrong way to manage because of the harm it causes to the habitat and local economies where boom and bust cycles occur. States such as Utah that have large percentages of public lands within their borders depend heavily upon natural resources and open access to help fuel the local economy and provide jobs for people. But it's getting harder and harder for Utah and other Western states to utilize these federally-controlled resources.

The traditional use of public land is under constant siege in Central and Southeastern Utah, and once-friendly federal agencies are not as cooperative as they once were in continuing a multiple use approach. Management plans are much more stringent regarding public access, and appear to be phasing it out in some cases, in favor non-motorized recreational type of development. In addition, well-funded environmental organizations and activists are constantly pushing for more restrictive wilderness, conservation areas, and monument designations. Mining, logging, and other extractive industries including motorized recreation have been singled out as being 'bad'-most especially motorized recreation-by these aggressive special interest groups who want to curtail or eliminate these uses altogether.

The USFS should finally begin to reverse its decades-long systematic discrimination against those with mobility impairment-related disabilities. Travel management policies focused on "minimizing" the environmental impacts of motorized recreation have resulted in a dramatic increase of lands that are closed to those who can only access public lands with motorized assistance.

In conclusion, I believe in shared use and that there is enough public land for all to enjoy as long as agencies use best practices. Please keep our public routes open and accessible.