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First name: stacie

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear National Forest Service, My name is Stacie Lysko. I am a resident of the beautiful Gunnison Valley as an everyday outdoor enthusiast as well as working full time in the service industry. On average I ride my dirt bike 150+ days a year and winter providing, I am on my snowmobile an average of 2,000 miles. I also love hiking with my dogs and taking them for nordic skis. I state these stats because having my OSV access in danger deeply affects my everyday life. The reason I live in this incredible area. The reason I wake up before the sun rises everyday to enjoy these activities before going into my work day. I am writing to you today in hopes that you will not take ALT-D into consideration as part of the GMCG draft forest service plan.

I understand the concerns of those interest groups of what impact motorized vehicles have on the environment. Being in the backcountry as much as I am on said vehicles I can attest I have had very low negative impact. Most of the wildlife in our mountains migrate to lower elevations in the winter time to survive. Moose tracks I have come across have shown that. Moose that I have come across in person, are not scared or disrupted negatively by my presence. There have been studies showing that wildlife is often able to better navigate around their areas through snowmobile tracks using them instead of trudging through deeper untracked snow. It is an amazing scene to witness, one that makes my day even better than just being out exploring the vast areas I am able to.

As for vegetation, hiking or biking the same areas in the Summer time have shown little to no OSV recreation damage. The areas are still growing beautifully as if no OSV was ever there. I truly believe it is, instead, overpopulation of human existence as a whole affecting our world for the worse.

Timber management is something that needs to be exactly that, managed. If less access is provided to areas for management the more likelihood of wildfire. We are undoubtedly seeing warmer summers and getting into congested areas that foot traffic necessarily may not see tells me that they do not understand the danger they are putting our land in if it can not be maintained.

I can agree that motorized vehicles can be loud. Especially at the trailhead where you may come across more than one, it seems like a lot. And one uneducated rider with bad etiquette can ruin it for everyone. But making machines that run cleaner and quieter for the environment are a thing of the present and only continuing to get better in the future with electric vehicles. Have you ever sat in traffic in LA? The small group of everyday OSV users in our valley create immensely less emissions on our environment than at stop lights in congested cities.

I hope to see alternative A or alternative C voted upon as I believe this is the most fair to all backcountry users alike. Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns. I appreciate the NFS and all that you do for our lands. - Stacie Lysko, Crested Butte CO