

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/16/2021 3:56:16 PM

First name: Moby

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am an extensive user of GMUG, although minimally during hunting season. I hike frequently (at least weekly), camp (both in campgrounds and dispersed), ski, snowshoe, and photograph. Therefore the health and maintenance of GMUG is very important to me. As I live in Grand Junction, the vast majority of my activities are on the Grand Mesa although I occasionally visit other parts, particularly Pinion Mesa and the San Juan area. GMUG is used for a variety of purposes and by a variety of people and businesses. It is important to me to maintain the availability of these activities. As a hiker and camper I am appalled at the logging done in the Lands End area. However I do see a need for limited logging for fire control and business. I think these activities need to be limited and not within sight of major hiking trails and campgrounds. The beauty of Grand Mesa is marvelous and shouldn't be spoiled for visitors, campers, and photographers. This is important not only for the glorious vistas but to support local businesses (including those on the Mesa) and tourism. No wants to see stripped forests! Limits to logging should include not within the close proximity of major trails, hike, ski, and bike. The US has a huge percentage of obese people straining the health system and decreasing their quality of life. There are numerous programs to encourage people, especially children, to get outside and exercise. We need to continue to have amazing, beautiful areas to encourage people to come. Being outside is also a stress reducer and may possibly affect things like crime and violence.

Winter use should also be considered. I primarily ski and snow shoe on trails maintained by the Grand Mesa Nordic Council. These need to be maintained for beauty and function. Shutting down trails during the winter is unacceptable! Logging immediately adjacent to these trails is also terrible. I have met people skiing, hiking, and camping from all over the world. These people are important for tourism and business and enhance the forest activities. Logging and commercial use, with the exception of grazing, also needs to be separated. I would like to see the complete (the current map is not completely accurate) Skyway, County Line, and Ward areas designated as semi-primitive non-motorized. I'm not saying don't allow snowmobiles or recreational all terrain or off road vehicles. There's room for every recreation on the Mesa if the guidelines and classifications are well thought out with respect to all stake holders.

The new Plunge trail for bikers exemplifies the need to maintain the beauty and correct classification of uses in national forests. The Plunge has brought an influx of people internationally bringing economic prosperity. However development in national forests needs to be limited too. I think right now the Grand Mesa has an appropriate amount of commercial businesses and does not need more than already have permission. Please keep ski and hiking trails classified as semi-primitive non-motorized areas! Especially significant in the proposed plans are the Skyway, County Line, and Ward ski systems. I support Plan D. Although not perfect, it does protect much of what I value and revere.

Sincerely,

Moby (registered as Mary as a voter) Hoefling