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Dear Forest Service managers,

I am writing regarding the newly released Travel Management Plan. Specifically, I wanted to acknowledge and thank you for the great amount of work put into the plan, and point out two areas of concern.

The opening of new motorized trails in general needs to be carefully considered, for its impact on the landscape but also just as importantly for the impact on wildlife. ATV/ORV use will greatly increase the impacts on wildlife and cause them to move out of areas where such use increases. On a more personal note, I would like to draw your attention to the impact of the proposed new Warm Springs Canyon additions (WR07,WR13). My property is adjacent to the area proposed for inclusion, and I walk in the area several times each week. I have noticed increased visitation of the geyser and natural bridge, and the building of open fires that are sometimes left unattended by inexperienced visitors. There are sometimes as many as twelve (12) vehicles parked at the top of the hill leading down to the geyser.

Attached is a presentation that I have made for the BLM who manages the land where the geyser and natural bridge are located. The attachment outlines the concerns, risks and liabilities that property owners, recreational users, and federal land managers are exposed to at the present time. Increasing motorized access will only make the problems significantly worse. A meeting was held to discuss these concerns on September 7th with the Fremont County Commission and the BLM district management team. All present agreed that steps need to be taken to make the site more secure and reduce the existing risks. As property owners, the list of neighbors who are named in the attached share the primary concern of fire spreading out of control due to the convergent funnelling and fanning effect of the strong prevailing winds down Warm Springs Canyon and Saddle Draw. There does exist in the legal case history precedent for federal land managers to be held liable for damage that such fires can cause to private property.

Please review the attached and you will clearly see the problems. I strongly encourage you to reconsider and abandon the idea of opening additional motorized routes WR07 and WR13. Thank you for your attention and your time.

Sincerely,

Blair Butterfield

[PII]