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Organization:

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Comments: To the GMUG Planners, Please find my response to the current GMUG Revision Plan 51806.

I live in Delta County and spend a tremendous time on the Grand Mesa for recreation, specifically cross country skiing in winter, and hiking/canoeing in summer. I moved here 20 years ago to be near this incredible beautiful wonderland The Grand Mesa. My husband is a 5th generation Grand Mesa explorer and through his stories and our adventures together I have adopted this as my home space.

I strongly object to any further admissions of motorized vehicles anywhere on the Grand Mesa. The usage of these forest lands is good for people, but at the rate it is growing it will not be good for the preservation of the forest. Reduce, do not increase motorized traffic on these lands.

Specific to cross country skiing--please consider that this form of use is low impact and introduces people to being really out in the trees, exercising, and enjoying the peace and tranquility of these spaces. Without skis you simply can't get there without a motor. The Grand Mesa Nordic Council has done an incredible job creating these trails and I ask you to officially designate these trails as special management areas for cross country skiing, and no motorized recreation. Specifically this means that the entire Skyway, County Line, and Ward ski pods should be classified as Oversnow Vehicles Prohibited Seasonally on the Winter Travel Map. It appears that the USFS Alternative C mis-categorizes the current usage of the eastern part of Ward ski area--and this is one of the most important areas to categorize as non-motorized. It's where we skiers go to get away from the non stop news cycle and to really clear our minds and feed our souls! We need more area not less. Alternative D is my preferred option for winter travel. I want the GMNC to be able to expand trails (as ski usage continues to boom) and Alternative D, with the Semi Primitive Non Motorized designation gives the skiers in our community that option. Regarding Summer Use--more trails, less vehicles...I think you've done a great job with the revitalized campgrounds, and I hope for improvements to the Ward parking lot. If we can continue to suppress motorized traffic on lakes and trails, we have a summertime gem that allows endless exploration.

Please consider the value this resource provides for those of us in the larger community who seek the opportunities of hiking and skiing the Grand Mesa to get away from it all, to enjoy nature, to teach our children environmental stewardship and to protect these lands for future generations. Thank you for the work that you do!