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Comments: GMUG FOREST PLAN PUBLIC COMMENT:

Snodgrass Rural Prescription

In alternative B and D, the Snodgrass Mountain area is removed from the Crested Butte Mountain Resort Permit area. This changes the management area from Mountain Resort to General Forest. I support this change, but when you correspond the winter travel management prescription it has remained as rural. The rural prescription does not match the current use of this area, which is dominantly semi-primitive non-motorized travel (backcountry skiing). By not designating this area as semi-primitive non-motorized and due to the technological advances of snow machines you are opening this area up to motorized use. This will change the dominant use to motorized overtime.

In addition, as mentioned on page 15 of Volume 1, Snodgrass mountain went through an extensive analysis, determining that the area to be unsuitable for development that is associated with a ski area. Over the past three decades, development of the area has also been controversial in local communities. Why set the forest up for an uphill battle when the next entrepreneur has the bright idea of building a lift to the top of Snodgrass from the new development going in at Crested Butte North Valley (just below Snodgrass). You must change the current prescription of rural to semi-primitive non-motorized to avoid this confusion and save USFS time and taxpayer money.

Lastly concerning this area, it should match the winter prescription for the gothic corridor as the topography lends a relationship to it regarding user travel patterns. If the prescription of rural remains (open to motorized), it will cause user/ violation conflicts with the gothic corridor.

Mount Emmons Area, Semi Primitive Motorized Prescription (Alternatives B & D)

Much of Mt Emmons areas winter recreational use is dominated by backcountry human powered skiing. This zone is near a major trailhead and for those who cannot reach backcountry skiing zones further out via snow machines, it is an important non-motorized area. Due to some of the topography in this area it has lent itself to non-motorized recreation in the past. However, in recent years due to the technological advances of snow machines, more motorized use has begun to creep into places it has not in the past. Several of these glades and the main bowl of Mt. Emmons are very important to the public who ski them. By designating this area as Semi Primitive Motorized you are opening the door for the use pattern to change to be dominated by snow machines.

Porphry Park Area, Semi Primitive Motorized Prescription (Alternative B)

Much of Porphry Park areas winter recreational use is dominated by backcountry human powered skiing. This zone is near a trailhead and for those who cannot reach backcountry skiing zones further out via snow machines, it is an important non-motorized area. Due to some of the topography in this area it has lent itself to non-motorized recreation in the past. However, in recent years due to the technological advances of snow machines, more motorized use has begun to creep into places it has not in the past. Several of these glades are very important to the public who ski them. By designating this area as Semi Primitive Motorized you are opening the door for the use pattern to change to be dominated by snow machines. Road 7237 could be included as Roded Natural to provide for a snowmobile route to White Pine (Tomichi Creek).

Semi-primitive non-motorized setting prescription, winter characteristics:

Currently there are groomed trails in some of the areas that are being depicted as semi-primitive non-motorized. In addition, regarding the items above there are groomed trails for non-motorized recreation. The winter characteristics for semi-primitive non-motorized need to include administrative/ permitted motorized use to clear this up. By not including this as a winter characteristic you will essentially be eliminating groomed trails that have historically been a part of human powered recreation in these areas.

With all the above items, I understand that these types of issues will be analyzed when the forest conducts their winter travel management analysis. However, by not addressing this now you are setting the forest up for an uphill battle and it will be much harder to make these designations if they are portrayed as such in the Forest Plan.

Pg. 81, Wilderness Objective MA-OBJ-WLDN-06

Powderhorn Wilderness needs to be included in this list.

Wilderness Management Areas Map

On this map the Fossil Ridge Wilderness management areas have not been designated. These designations are important for Wilderness Characteristic Monitoring and are needed to address threats to solitude. By not prescribing these management areas, you are not providing adequate management for the Fossil Ridge Wilderness.