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First name: Tim

Last name: Swift

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am writing in regard to the forest management plan for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forest.

Our family of three generations has enjoyed multiple means of access to federal lands over many years, including hiking, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, adventure motorbiking, mountain biking and SUV travel. We picnic, explore, camp and go sight-seeing and have done that across many of the western states including Colorado, where we have family.

For us with children and aging parents, motorized access is the only way we can enjoy many of these areas as a family. This has impacted us first hand when I recently went to travel with my elderly father to an area we had enjoyed for many years and found the access road not only closed, but with considerable expense, fully removed. I could not give my father any rational reason why an area that had been successfully shared for multiple use access for decades would no longer accommodate him.

Growing numbers of people of all demographics are seeking time in the beautiful outdoor areas of our country and finding that there is an increasing amount of public land that is accessible to only the youngest and most fit among us.

Please retain routes in GMUG that currently have access, such as Black Bear Pass, Imogene, Ophir, William Pass, Taylor Pass, Spirit Gulch, Italian Creek and others. The closure of any of these areas is not only a loss of its own public accessibility, but presses an increasing segment of the population to fewer remaining areas.

I would support a combination of Alternative B (for summer) & the ROS zones of Alternative C (for year round recreation including winter use) to retain access for recreationalists of all types and abilities. I believe the USFS can continue motorized access to these areas while still being good stewards of the land and the native wildlife population.

I am strongly opposed to Alternative D due to the amount of road and trail closures, meaning that many areas become off limits, including for the youngest, oldest and physically challenged among us.

Thank you for your consideration.