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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am writing this letter as a 22 year resident of Gunnison county and avid public land user for my entire life. In this time I've witnessed nothing but expanding closures of public land to motorized travel, limiting the potential enjoyment for many users that would not be able to access these places otherwise. There are a number of understandable issues with other user groups, most of which can be addressed through education rather than complete closure. Snowmobiles do not destroy the fragile plant life that is subject to danger from summertime activity, as they travel on top of several feet of snow! Areas that hold good snowmobiling are rarely winter ranges for elk and deer, and studies have shown that the animals that do live in these areas actually benefit from snowmobile tracks that make it easier for them to travel and hunt for food. Indeed, most human powered forms of transportation also benefit from a nice packed down track! Snowmobiles and snow bikes are noisy and smoky, but not nearly as bad as they were just a few years ago, and with new technologies emerging every season, it won't be long before these machines, like our cars, will run on batteries and be virtually silent! Crowding at the trailheads is another issue, but restrictions on access will only serve to worsen the problem, leaving some vacant and others full before the sun comes up. Closing Public lands to any member of the public is wrong! Education and management are the keys to sustainable backcountry access. Please don't let any more of our public land become in-accessible to any member of the public!