

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/26/2021 9:54:46 PM

First name: Thomas

Last name: Runcie

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to comment on the GMUG forest plan revision. I am a resident of Gunnison County and count annual days of use in the GMUG in the hundreds between hiking with my family, riding mountain bikes, backcountry skiing, and snowmobiling. I have several concerns with the proposed changes to the travel management plan for our local forest.

As a user of all types of forest, including wilderness, primitive, non motorized, and motorized, I am generally happy with the existing conditions of access to and use of GMUG land and trails. Specifically, I am very unhappy with the proposed closures to over snow motorized travel presented in alternatives B and D. The closures of any new areas to snowmobile use would serve to greatly condense snowmobile use in remaining areas, which in turn presents opportunity for user conflict and increased avalanche risk. Of specific concern to me are the proposed closures of Poverty Gulch to OSVs in plan D, the closure of the only winter route to Aspen over Tilton Pass in plans B and D, and the massive closure of the Cliff Creek area near Beckwith Pass on plan D. I believe continuing to allow OSV use in these areas benefits all users, as they are remote areas that require either OSVs or all-day efforts to access in the winter, it helps spread out OSV use, it increases speed and efficiency of rescue should the need arise, and it both reduces avalanche risk and increases potential for avalanche rescue.

As far as summer planning goes, I support the efforts of the Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association and the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative. CBMBA is a broad racing organization that knows the trails and usage in our area better than anyone,, and GPLI is a long-standing cooperation between many user groups in the area.

In summary, my preference is to not alter access or use to the forest in the Crested Butte area, and my strongest preference is against alternative D, which would have a huge negative impact on many user groups and would effectively remove a large portion of our Backcountry skiing and snowmobiling terrain from use.

Thanks for your time.