Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/25/2021 4:14:20 PM First name: Thomas Last name: Frampton Organization:

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Comments: Im writing today in opposition to alternative D. I've lived here in the Gunnison Valley for 9 years now and have recreated both on a snow machine and off in every end of the valley. Taking away public access to the majority of these areas via snowmobile seems unnecessary, unprovoked and dangerous. Snow depth on average in the surrounding backcountry is deep enough to prevent any major damage to vegetation and the areas most people are recreating in are generally uninhabited areas of wilderness. These places are popular all year round, I very rarely find myself some where that myself or others are drastically affecting current wildlife. Aside from that, the amount of snowmobiles in the area in general are quite minimal with the exception of the keblar pass trail head. A vast majority of the areas that would be taken away with alternative D are not large recreating areas for sledders but more so provide access to areas of the backcountry via dirt roads in the summer time. These are areas that receive more damage from vehicles and visitors in the summer time than any other time of year, especially winter in my opinion. Very rarely do you see an overwhelming amount of riders out on a given day in these areas. Lastly, limiting all snowmobile users to smaller areas increases the danger of something stated above happening more often. You will be packing more people in to areas resulting in the possibility for damage to vegetation could occur more often and potentially pushing more people in to areas that are inhabited by wildlife. Spreading people out will cause a lot less harm in my eyes. Most people that you come across are very respectful and aware of where they are, on top of that they can also provide a sense of security to other backcountry users. As an example I'm always carrying avalanche gear, the knowledge of how to use it, a satellite phone, first aid and numerous other helpful items not only for myself but incase others need assistance as well. Not to mention the ability to get from point A to B because I'm on a snow machine, I am just one example. We also live in a place where we encourage people to come, we want people to spend time here and this is asking part of them not to. The mountains are home to a lot of people, I've never seen as much respect for them as I do coming from winter recretaionlists, including sledders.