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Organization: Colorado Mesa University Nordic Ski Team

Title: Coach

Comments: I am writing as Head Coach on behalf of the Nordic Ski team at Colorado Mesa University. Our team uses the Grand Mesa Nordic trails at Skyway, County Line, and Ward for practices and several races throughout the season. These trail systems offer some of the best skiing in the region, especially for reliable early and late-season snow, and are thus a major asset for our team. These trails have also caught the attention of other collegiate teams seeking early season snow as just this week the University of Utah and University of Wyoming brought their teams to train on the Grand Mesa. We feel incredibly fortunate to have access to such great ski trails and reliable snow conditions and would like to see these trails protected and appropriately managed for cross country skiing.

First, we would like to request that these trail systems be managed for non-motorized recreation, specifically for cross country skiing. Under current management, we see intrusions from motorized vehicles such as snowmobiles on our trails. This causes damage to the trails, and we would like to see a better separation of motorized areas for snowmobiles and non-motorized areas for skiers. As such, we prefer Alternative D for winter travel options as we feel that "Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized" best represents how we would like to see these areas managed. Finally, the trail systems are primarily designated as "suitable for timber sale" in the various alternatives being considered. We kindly request that the trail systems be reclassified as "non-suitable for timber".

Thank you for considering our comments.