

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/27/2021 5:08:51 AM

First name: Sallie

Last name: Thoreson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have lived in Montrose County for 34+ years. I enjoy hiking, birdwatching and backpacking in the GMUG. I am most interested in quiet, non mechanized recreation. This allows me to see birds and other wildlife, identify and appreciate wildflowers, recharge my mental health, and enjoy the outdoors with small groups of family and friends. One of my favorite activities is to cross-country ski on Grand Mesa at Skyway, Countyline, and Ward Lake cross-county ski trails. I especially honor the relationship that the GMUG has with Grand Mesa Nordic Council to groom and maintain the ski trails and to separate over snow vehicles from the skiers and snowshoe users.

To better protect the cross county trails on the Grand Mesa, I ask the Forest Service to implement the following.

The ski areas of Skyway, Countyline, and Ward Lake should all receive an ROS of "Semi-primitive Non-Motorized" for both winter and summer. Due to the increasing number of skiers, the areas need to be able to expand with more ski and snowshoe trails.

My preference is that the FS designate the Skyway, Countyline, and Ward Lake cross country ski areas as a Special Management Area for cross-country skiing. This would clarify how the area can best be used.

I have reviewed the Travel Maps and Winter ROS Inventory Maps for the cross-country ski areas on Grand Mesa. I ask that the FS correct the error on the Winter Travel Map where parts of the Skyway and Ward ski areas are labelled as "Analyzed - Open to OSV". These are established cross country ski trails and should be classified as "Oversnow Vehicles Prohibited Seasonally". This is consistent with how the rest of the ski areas are classified.