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Comments: The Pagosa Nordic Club (PNC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit and 100% volunteer organization providing free groomed nordic ski trails for the last 15 years. PNC respectfully submits our support for the separation of Human Powered Recreation and Motorized Recreation areas and trails. There is no evidence of a model where motorized and human powered recreation safely coexist with each other.

Parking lot issues exist with skiers gearing up near OSVs revving and warming up creating noise and noxious fumes. OSV hauling vehicles take up 4-5 parking spaces. Multi-use (in reality OSV) Parking lots are not big enough, forcing parking along the Hwy or driving to other multi-use winter recreation areas that do not typically see much OSVs, thus negatively impacting skiers that visit these areas because they are defacto quiet recreation areas, however, just not formally designated, thus they end up being OSV trail heads due to the lack of appropriate management and designation of areas.

Trail issues with OSV trail damage being the norm, damaging trails groomed specifically for nordic skiing activities. OSVs jumping onto and entering trails at a 90-degree angle at high rates of speed with no visibility of skiers on the trail. One OSV will easily destroy a groomed nordic ski trail, ruining the experience and creating an unsafe trail that skiers traveled to enjoy. Some OSV users have a tendency to have aggressive and non-respectful attitudes, thus even a very polite mention to please be more careful and keep an eye out for skiers results in profanities and anger from the driver.

The idea of splitting the entirety of the Wolf Creek Pass recreation playground at the top of the pass, is concerning. We are seeing more OSV traffic head over to the west side of the Pass because of the parking capacity issues on the east side, filling the Pagosa Ranger district Multi-Use (in reality OSV) Parking lots over capacity on the west side and forcing OSVs to Fall Creek where the Pagosa Nordic Club has invested 15 years and 3,000 hours of volunteer labor to groom nordic ski trails and more than \$70,000 in equipment and expenses associated with grooming Fall Creek Road under a special use permit with the Pagosa Ranger District. The Pagosa Nordic wants to ensure we continue to have a high-altitude venue for groomed nordic ski trails as our climate continues to warm and we will experience a reducing winter snowpack in the river valleys. Last season for example, we were only able to groom three of our trailheads once due to the low pack. Currently, Fall Creek is under threat of being lost for Nordic skiing due to the immense increase in OSV use. Last year saw more OSVs at Fall Creek than the entire last 14 years combined. We realize the RIO Grande process does not consider Fall Creek, however, that presents a very disingenuous planning process for the entirety of the Wolf Creek Pass playground, expecting the OSV and Human Powered users to get along when the Rio Grande and San Juan forests cannot work together to properly and intentionally plan Wolf Creek Pass.

We support the designation of OSV and Human Powered Recreation areas. Multi-use areas are in reality OSV dominated areas where skiers do not feel safe recreating at. We have searched around the state and the country to find an example of successful shared areas where OSV and nordic skiing safety and effectively coexist, and there are none except a few areas where a very small population of locals use the area without the influence of tourists and visitors. Wolf Creek Pass is a very popular draw for visitors from outside of our SW Colorado area, thus separating uses is the responsible way to provide the highest level of public safety and enjoyable experience for both user groups.

The Pagosa Nordic Club wants to be involved and stay informed in the Rio Grande Forest Winter Travel Management Plan process, and we will continue to advocate that our two forests can work together for the benefit of our public lands and the public that recreates on these lands.

Thank you for your dedication to ensure a very thorough, equitable and meaningful planning process for

developing a winter travel management plan that provides all users with a safe place to recreate.