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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed land use decision outlined in the Deep Creek and Whitewater River Comprehensive River Management Plan #61613. As an active participant in dual sport riding and a strong advocate for outdoor recreation, I believe this decision will have a detrimental impact on the opportunities for responsible and legal participation in our sport.

The lands in question are not only vital for dual sport riders but also provide one of the few remaining legal areas where individuals and families can safely enjoy motorized recreation. Access to public lands is essential for ensuring that the growing number of riders, including youth and newcomers to the sport, have safe and lawful spaces to practice and develop their skills. Closing or restricting access to these areas would push riders toward illegal or unsafe locations, which can lead to environmental damage, safety concerns, and increased conflicts with other land users.

Furthermore, these lands serve as a valuable resource for promoting responsible and sustainable motorized recreation. Through proper management, including designated trails and regulated usage, we can continue to enjoy our sport while minimizing environmental impacts. Removing or limiting access to these areas without considering the broader implications for recreational riders undermines the principle of public lands being accessible to all forms of responsible recreation.

I urge the agency to reconsider the proposed decision and engage with the local dual sport community to explore alternative solutions that balance environmental preservation with recreational access. Public lands should remain a place where diverse activities, including motorized recreation, can coexist in a way that promotes safety, environmental stewardship, and public enjoyment.

Thank you for your consideration.