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First name: Nathan

Last name: Conder

Organization: Utah DNR

Title:

Comments: Jared,

Over the last 7 years, I have ridden PST #26 every year in Early Summer. I did this as an employee of the Forest Service Motorized Trail Crew most of those years. This last year I did it as an employee of the State of Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation.

This is one of my favorite trails on Beaver Mountain! I've seen deer almost every time I've ridden it, and I've eaten several wild strawberries along this trail. I've shown several crew members their first wild strawberry on this trail.

It might be "close" to the main truck road, but you feel very far away when you're actually out on the 26. It offers beautiful scenery, tremendous wildlife viewing, and seclusion that only a 50" trail can offer.

I've also cut dozens of fallen trees off this trail and dropped several hazard trees to prevent danger to future riders. This trail has led me to be a much better sawyer and provided me and many coworkers the opportunity to improve our skills with a chainsaw.

In addition, I've spent countless hours swamping for the trail dozer along this trail. I've witnessed the safe operation of the dozer when it comes to preserving environmental integrity with the marshes and creek crossings. Hundreds of hours of careful planning and on the ground work have gone into the maintenance of this trail! Skilled dozer operators have spent decades meticulously improving the water drainage on this trail and have turned it into a world class ATV/UTV trail with the numbers to back it up (over 2,000 trail counter triggers on some years)!

Closing this trail would also likely limit access to any wounded veterans or older folks who can't put a pack on and hike in on foot.

I encourage you to leave this trail as it is and maintain its 50" status. I promise to continue to work on behalf of the State of Utah to maintain this trail on an annual basis and commit my crew to help with any improvement projects that take place in the future.

Thank you for your consideration,

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Nathan Conder

Trail Crew Foreman (Region 2) Utah Department of Natural ResourcesDivision of Outdoor Recreation