



“Voice of the Western Slope since 1953”
A coalition of counties, communities, businesses & individuals

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93-10 PL 1
GMUG Travel Management Plan

WHEREAS: the Grand Mesa was the third national forest created in America, and is a treasured resource, the value of which is inestimable to the people of Western Colorado, and

WHEREAS: the Grand Mesa provides a wide variety of opportunities for public use including skiing, hiking, boating, fishing, hunting, logging, grazing, off-road vehicle exploration, and others, and

WHEREAS: such use has dramatically increased in recent years, especially use by off-road vehicles, and such vehicles present new problems and opportunities in the management of the Grand Mesa, and

WHEREAS: the United States Forest Service has proposed changes in the Travel Management Plan for the Grand Mesa, which are designed to avoid a disproportionate adverse impact by motorized use, while still guaranteeing opportunities for such users by maintaining over 100 miles of off-road trails, and such plans would not result in closing any historically important roads, and

WHEREAS: The proposal has met with strongly divided public reactions, based mainly upon the closure of existing roads, though there is general support for restrictions which require users to remain on designated roads,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports restricting off-road vehicles to designated roads on the entire Grand Mesa National Forest, provided:

1. Existing roads which have been used historically must remain open. Earlier Grand Mesa maps are the best source for information on which roads have been acknowledged and approved by USFS and historically used by the public; see attached list of several such roads.
2. Seasonal road and trail closures, especially during mud seasons, can be a useful management tool for maintaining roads. CLUB 20 does not oppose such seasonal closures, nor the closing of trails recently created without Forest Service approval.
3. The Travel Management Plan will result in publication of new maps, which presents an excellent opportunity to solve some of the known mapping problems, and USFS is encouraged to do so.
4. CLUB 20 encourages the Forest Service to work with off-road vehicle groups to improve signing and marking of designated trails.

Adopted October 26, 1993