

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 21, 2015

Mr. Neil Kornze, Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
1849 C Street, NW, Room 5665  
Washington, D.C., 20240

RE: Travel Management Planning for the Grand Junction Field Office

Dear Director Kornze:

Our offices have been approached by numerous stakeholders and representatives of local governments with concerns surrounding travel management planning in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO), which will tier to the Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP), recently released on April 10, 2015. Specifically, motorized recreationists expressed concerns that land open to motorized use is being progressively limited, noting that issues surrounding motorized use are often addressed by trails closure rather than site-specific mitigation measures. We would like to reiterate these concerns and strongly encourage the BLM to work closely with all stakeholders to ensure equitable planning for recreation of all forms.

The Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) established BLM's commission to manage lands under its purview according to the multiple-use principle, which we recognize is often easier said than done. However, we sincerely believe that various forms of recreation have successfully utilized the same public lands in the past and can continue to do so into the future, and the need to segregate user groups is not imperative. So-called user conflicts may occur, but to the extent that they do, an increase in the use of user separation as a management tool may only encourage recreationists of different activities to view each other as adversaries and foster the kinds of conflicts we wish to avoid.

In the event that a trail closure is unavoidable to prevent detrimental impacts to other resources, such as cultural resources, we would strongly encourage the BLM to adopt a management approach that allows for the construction of new trails elsewhere as compensation with input from local stakeholders. If this flexibility is not inherent in travel management planning, the BLM is in danger of unnecessarily limiting its options, and certain user groups, like motorized recreation, may experience a progressively shrinking trails system that will see heavier impacts from increased usage.

Given these myriad concerns, the fact that travel management is, in our judgment, among the most contentious components of the PRMP, and that motorized recreation is a significant economic contributor to local economies, we request that the BLM give strong consideration to issuing separate Records of Decision (ROD) for the RMP and the TMP, and granting additional time for analysis of the TMP as requested by Mesa County.

We thank you for your serious consideration of these concerns, and please feel free to contact us at any time.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner  
United States Senator



Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress

Cc: Ms. Ruth Welch, State Director, BLM Colorado  
Mr. Joe Meyer, District Manager, BLM Colorado Northwest District  
Mr. Wayne Werkmeister, Acting Field Manager, BLM Grand Junction Field Office