

SHARE THE SLATE

Share the Valley

Welcome!

- ▣ Thank you for coming

- ▣ Introductions:

Brittany Konsella, President

Kendall Tankersley, Vice President

Kristi Kagy, Secretary

Adam Kagy, Treasurer

Josh Egedy, Board Member

Will Dujardin, Board Member

Frank Konsella, Board Member

Mission

To protect winter access and promote the shared interests of all user groups within the public lands of Gunnison County

Share
the
Slate

Share the Valley

Share the Slate strives to:

- ▣ protect the shared interests of *all* winter user groups, motorized and non-motorized, within our public lands
- ▣ foster a sense of community through education and open dialogue
- ▣ protect our community by developing strategies for conflict management
- ▣ preserve and celebrate the beauty of all public lands within Gunnison County

We also strive to:

- ▣ ensure balanced winter access for *all* user groups, motorized and non-motorized, within the Slate River Drainage and other National Forest drainages
- ▣ promote a culture of compassion and compromise that honors the Gang of 9 Decision and all those who have shared these lands before us
- ▣ ensure that our public lands remain public and that no one group or individual, no amount of influence or financial gain, can strip any user group of their rights to recreate on public lands

Who we are

We are not just hybrid users. We represent ALL users

We don't just focus on the Slate River Drainage, we focus on ALL drainages that provide access to our public lands in winter.



What we believe

- ❑ The Slate River Drainage and all drainages on public lands should remain open to all user groups, motorized and non-motorized.
- ❑ Our public lands must remain public and that no user group should have the power to deny access to another user group for any reason.



We also believe

- ▣ Our community is stronger when united, and that any conflicts are best resolved through education, compassion, and discussion.
- ▣ Most importantly, we believe in and represent a united community of winter enthusiasts who always have and will continue to celebrate our shared interests and passions.

Why we exist

- ▣ We are a group of multi-users who would like to keep winter access to drainages and public lands
- ▣ Formed in direct response to Silent Tracks and the Nordic Center's Master Plan
- ▣ Formed due to new OSV Ruling



Nordic Center Master Plan

8.1.8 - Expand our groomed trail system to include Washington Gulch to Elkton and the Slate River valley to Pittsburg. Having groomed trails up these drainages will require community involvement as the Forest Service readdresses the winter travel management plan.



Nordic Center Master Plan

Appendix - It seems evident that given numerous snowmobiling access options at present, it is more than reasonable that the Slate River and Washington Gulch drainages (at the least) should be zoned and enforced for non-motorized use. The more this use/trespass grows, the more a sense of ownership evolves among motorized users that can eventually overwhelm any objections.

This is one of the reasons why the Nordic Center and Silent Tracks are trying to rush the winter travel management re-evaluation

New OSV ruling

- ▣ OSV – Over snow vehicles
- ▣ Winter Wildlands Alliance sued the National Forest for not having existing winter travel management plans
- ▣ OSV Ruling - requires the local Forest Service to designate routes and areas for different uses
- ▣ Gunnison NF does have a winter travel management plan – Gang of 9 Decision from 1995
- ▣ NF contacts say that this DOES qualify as a winter travel management plan because prior decisions were made under NEPA

OSV Ruling

- ▣ 2005 the winter travel management plan was revised to refine uses on Washington Gulch Road - permits required and zones restricted for snowmobiles
- ▣ The winter travel management plan that is currently in place will be reviewed, it's just a matter of when
- ▣ We want to make sure all voices are heard during this review process, but we don't believe this review process should be rushed.



Other agendas

- ▣ The Nordic Center would like to see Slate River and Washington Gulch Drainages be non-motorized. This is in their Master Plan
- ▣ Silent Tracks and the Nordic Center are both trying to speed up the review process



No rush for winter travel management review

- 1) Silent Tracks and the Nordic Center represent only a small minority - not representative of the greater Crested Butte Community.
- 2) The current Gang of Nine Decision continues to be an effective winter travel management plan for our area and can still be on a case by case basis – Washington Gulch, 2005.

No rush for winter travel management review

- 3) Nationally, policy directives have not yet been written regarding Over Snow Vehicle use following the OSV ruling – need these directives to guide winter travel management plan discussions.
- 4) More user data and community input should be collected - decisions then can be made with better community-wide input and information.



No rush for winter travel management review

- 5) Redevelopment of a winter travel management plan should not happen before the more comprehensive forest-wide revision is complete – FS intends to complete this comprehensive revision in the next 3 to 4 years.
- 6) Instead of focusing on altering winter travel in all areas, we should first address issues at the winter parking areas. These areas are typically managed by Gunnison County, not the National Forest.

The Gang of 9 Decision

- ▣ Taught us important lessons
- ▣ Believe this plan continues to be working
- ▣ With increased use, we can still maintain multi-use trails
- ▣ Must remember to be respectful and minimize user conflicts



Photo by Neil Beltchenko

Taking action – Step 1

Education and awareness:

- ▣ educate people about parking rules and access rules specific to each drainage (For example, some areas only allow snowmobiles on the road)
- ▣ we believe that all user groups can continue to happily coexist in our drainages, but respect and understanding of one another is essential to this. → CODE OF CONDUCT

Code of Conduct

KEEP WINTER TRAILHEADS MULTI-USE:

BE KIND

Smiles and waves go a long way in creating positive experiences for everyone.

SHOW RESPECT

Respect all closures and private property; it's closed for a reason. Realize other users are not your enemy. We all have a responsibility to respect each other.

BE AWARE

Being aware of your surroundings and yielding to other users will all but eliminate conflicts and misunderstandings.

HELP OTHERS

Offer a helping hand, advice, and conversation when needed. We are a community; let's keep an eye out for one another.

FIND OUT MORE AT SHARETHESLATE.COM

Taking Action – Step 2

Begin collecting data:

- ▣ We don't believe that the National Forest should be reviewing our winter travel management plan until adequate data is collected
- ▣ Surveys
- ▣ Mapping user data - Adam will talk more about this later

Taking Action – Steps 3 to 5

- 3) Work with county, Land Trust, and other entities to make parking areas more friendly, better signage
- 4) Code of Conduct signs at different winter trailheads
- 5) Contacting members of the National Forest and other entities to make our voices heard



Photo by Eliot Rosenberg

What you can do

- 1) Stay informed - Sign up for email updates on our website - we'll keep you informed. For example, about the Town Council Meeting 2 weeks ago. We'll also be including action alerts.
- 2) Donate – link on website
- 3) Action Alert: Send in a letter to town council and Mayor Glenn Michel – link on our website
- 4) Action Alert: Sign our Petition directed to the National Forest – link on our website

What you can do



These 4 actions can be found easily on our site

- ▣ sharetheslate.com
- ▣ Click on Updates
- ▣ Click on post titled:
“4 Actions you can take to support Share the Slate”

Other actions

- ▣ Follow the Code of Conduct - be an influencer! Set an example! Happiness breeds happiness, unless you're Scrooge :)
- ▣ Help us gather data – Look for upcoming surveys & help us map user data



Introducing the user-data mapping project

- map.sharetheslate.com

- Also linked on our site

- Goals

- Begin collecting usage data for various areas

- Want to know who's going where and for what purpose

- For *all* users – cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snow-shoeing, ice-climbing, etc.

