



# Gang of 9 Decision

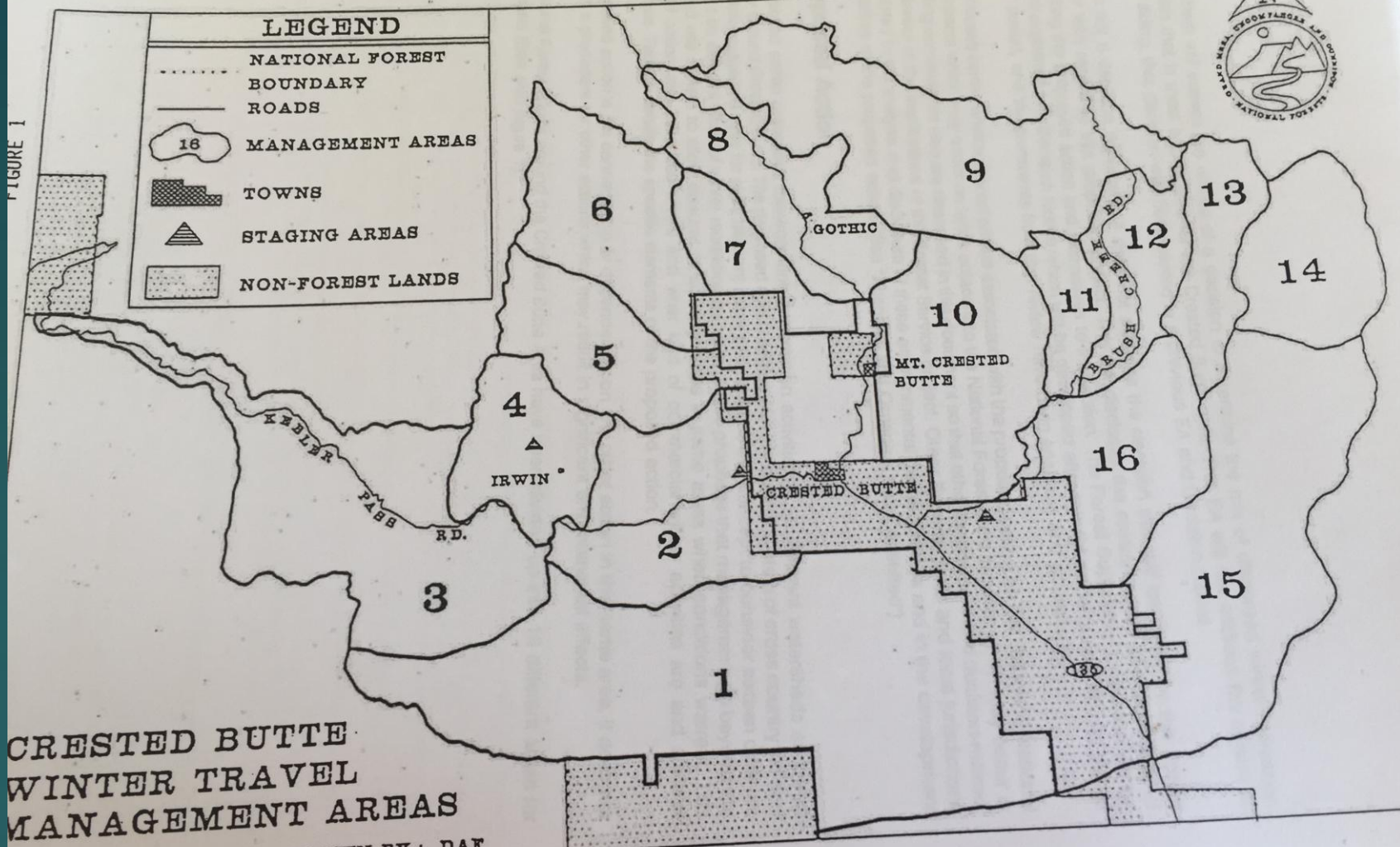
CURRENT WINTER TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN,  
IMPLEMENTED 11/27/1995

FIGURE 1



**LEGEND**

	NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY
	ROADS
	MANAGEMENT AREAS
	TOWNS
	STAGING AREAS
	NON-FOREST LANDS



**CRESTED BUTTE  
WINTER TRAVEL  
MANAGEMENT AREAS**

DATE: 11/8/98

DRAWN BY: DAF

# Specifics of Gang of 9 Decision:

- ▶ 1. Ohio Creek – General use area.
- ▶ 2. Kebler East – Emphasis snowmobiling. Cross country skiing discouraged, commercial use approved.
- ▶ 3. Kebler West – Emphasis snowmobiling. Open to cross country skiing.
- ▶ 4. Irwin – Emphasis snowmobile and snowcat use. Open to cross country skiing.
- ▶ 5. Oh Be Joyful – Emphasis on cross country skiing, snowmobiling is permitted but discouraged outside of wilderness, prohibited in wilderness.
- ▶ 6. Slate River– Emphasis is on general, non-commercial use.

# Gang of 9 Specifics, cont.

- ▶ 7. Washington Gulch – Emphasis is on cross country skiing, snowmobiling is permitted but discouraged and permits are required, no commercial use.
- ▶ 8. Upper East River (Gothic) – Emphasis on cross country skiing, closed to motorized use and commercial use.
- ▶ 9. Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness - Open to cross country skiing, closed to motorized use.
- ▶ 10. Lower East River – Emphasis on general use.
- ▶ 11. West Brush Creek – Emphasis on cross country skiing, snowmobiling is limited to Brush Creek Road and Deer Creek Road.
- ▶ 12. Middle Brush Creek – Emphasis is cross country skiing, closed to motorized use.
- ▶ 13. East Brush Creek – Upper = General use, Lower = Emphasis on Cross Country skiing

# Gang of 9 Specifics...

- ▶ 14. Upper Cement Creek – General use area
  - ▶ 15. Lower Cement Creek – General use area
  - ▶ 16. Farris Creek – General use area.
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- ▶ To summarize: Of the 16 areas affected by the decision:
  - ▶ 6 ½ areas emphasize general use (Ohio Creek, Slate, Lower East River, Upper Cement Creek, Lower Cement Creek, Upper Brush Creek (that's the half))
  - ▶ 6 ½ areas emphasize cross country skiing (Oh Be Joyful, Washington Gulch, Gothic Maroon Bells- Snowmass, Middle Brush Creek, West Brush Creek and Lower Brush Creek)
  - ▶ 3 areas emphasize snowmobiling (Kebler East, Kebler West and Irwin)

# Some Important Points on Silent Use

- ▶ “The perception of noise as a problem for some non-motorized users should be reduced by their ability to choose areas that will not contain motorized use”
  - ▶ In essence, the Forest Service states in their decision that if recreational users want a “silent” experience, then they can freely choose to recreate in areas where motorized use is prohibited, and the decision provides these areas
- ▶ “There are ample opportunities for track and skate skiing...provided by the Crested Butte Nordic Center”
  - ▶ This quote was about the decision to allow dog-sledding in gothic, stating that dog-free areas were ample. But it is relevant to motorized use as well. The USFS recognizes that there is already ample acreage for cross country skiers where all other user groups are not allowed.

# Factors that influenced the decision:

- ▶ The Forest Supervisor found “no strong or compelling biological or physical resource reasons to choose one alternative over another. It is apparent that social concerns are the most important considerations in making this decision.”
- ▶ And 2 paragraphs later, “this decision provides reasonable balance and compromise between the preferences, desires and perceptions of the Crested Butte and Gunnison communities...”
- ▶ “This alternative represents their (the gang of 9’s) compromises to balance the needs of major types of winter recreation pursuits...It attempts to recognize traditional uses while recognizing the needs of new, emerging types of winter recreation.”

# What we can do:

- ▶ Remember, the Gang of 9 decision is a working travel management plan for our area.
- ▶ Nothing in the 2015 decision requires the forest service to modify this existing plan. They will review it, but are not required to change it.
- ▶ In 1995, the USFS stated that safety, potential user conflict, and “social concerns” were the most important factors in their decision making.
- ▶ This means that human behavior will have a huge impact on whether or not they see the need to revise this plan.
- ▶ This is where Share the Slate comes in. We need to work together as a community to resolve any potential user conflicts. We need to be polite, considerate and respectful of other user groups in general use areas.



# More of what we can do...

## ▶ **PUBLIC COMMENT MATTERS!!!**

- ▶ The Forest Service strongly considers public comment when it comes to decisions on recreation and travel management.
- ▶ Right now a small group of users with a very specific, exclusionary agenda are being very vocal to the Forest Service. If we don't speak up, the Forest Service will think that their agenda is shared by the greater community.
- ▶ From our conversations in the community and the response to our group both in traditional and social media, we think that Share the Slate's agenda is supported by the majority of community members.
- ▶ We encourage everyone who wants to continue to see cooperative mixed use in our valley to be part of Share the Slate, stay informed, follow a code of conduct that reflects respect for all users, and be vocal, both in the community and with the Forest Service about your commitment to conflict-free mixed use.

