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First name: Carl

Last name: Johnson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Carbon Storage and Sequestration (Page 32)

Include the following statement from the Forest Plan Assessment Carbon Stocks Report (page 1) "Forested areas can store more carbon than non-forested areas"

Add a plan component that the Forest will increase carbon storage and sequestration by replanting or regenerating trees in areas where trees have been removed by wildfire or past Forest actions. When trees are removed or burned in one area, the equivalent number of trees will be replanted or regenerated in another. Add an objective that a certain acreage of trees are regenerated or planted each year in areas where wildfire has removed the trees.

Add an objective that deforested areas will be reforested.

There are areas south of Duchesne where the Forest Service chained thousands of acres of trees to increase livestock grazing. There are areas (such as the mustang fire and Cart Creek Fire) where trees are not growing back after massive wildfires. The Forest Service should have a plan to reforest these areas in order to rebuilt carbon storage levels of the forest.

Nonforest Vegetation (Page 27)

Remove the generic desired condition for nonforest vegetation in this section. It doesn't even make sense. The desired condition for Alpine, Desert Shrub, and Sagebrush areas make sense because they refer to actual ecological areas and species that are defined.

Having a desired condition for general nonforest vegetation in a "forest" plan, doesn't even make sense. The term isn't even defined. What plant species or ecological system is this desired condition promoting? It is like having a desired condition for non-wet areas of the ocean. Don't describe it as nonforest vegetation, describe the vegetation you are trying to promote.

I would recommend removing the term nonforest vegetation throughout this document and refer to the specific vegetation or ecosystem instead.

Sagebrush objectives (page 28)

I would change this objective to maintain desired condition of sagebrush rather than of nonforest vegetation.

Livestock grazing (Page 45)

Desired condition #2 does not make sense. I am not sure what "the management of social resources" means. I am not sure to what "designated areas" this refers.

I recommend you reword it as follows: "Livestock grazing and associated management activities are compatible with ecological functions and do not impair nor impact desired conditions for other resources."

High Uintas Wilderness Desired Condition #7 (Page 70)

Please change the desired condition to read, "Livestock grazing is recognized as an appropriate use of wilderness when it does not impair or impact other desired conditions of the Wilderness Area."

Please add a standard that the High Uinta Wilderness Area will be managed in accordance with the enacting legislation that created it. I would recommend referencing the legislation and even incorporating some of the language from the legislation into the standard.

Proposed Ashley Karst National Recreation and Geologic Area (page 71).

This area is no longer proposed. It is now signed into law.

I recommend having plan components that follow the language in the law and state that all activities and projects will comply with the management plan of the area.

Chapter 3, Designated Areas (Page 67)

I recommend having congressionally designated areas as their own section as these areas have legal restrictions where the Forest Service has very little discretion. The plan components for the Flaming Gorge NRA, High Uinta Wilderness Area, and Ashley Karst area need to be expanded and closely tied to the legislative language. It would recommend referencing the legislation so the public knows where to find the actual legislative language. These areas have very specific mandates that are different from the rest of the Forest because their use and management is more restrictive based on the legislation.

Flaming Gorge NRA Standards (Page 69)

Need standards that match with the language in the legislation

High Uintas Wilderness Standards (Page 70)

Need standards that match with the language in the legislation

Ashley Karst Area (Page 71)

Need standards that match with the language in the legislation

I recommend having an Administratively Designated Section that includes Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic Byways, and Inventoried Roadless Areas

These areas are legally designated, but are not congressionally designated.

I recommend moving Research Natural Areas under the heading of "Management Areas" on Page 76. Research Natural Areas are designated by the Forest Service under Forest Service policy and are not the same as congressionally designated areas or administratively designated areas.

The Historical and recreation management areas are a good idea and will help with heritage tourism and recreation on the forest. It is good for the Forest to recognize these areas in the new plan and to help guide management in the future.

Destination Recreation Area (Page 78-79)

Add a desired condition that states, "Amenities provide access for mobility impaired individuals whenever possible." Or similar language that emphasizes that the Destination Recreation Areas will have a higher level of development that provides access for individuals who are mobility impaired.