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First name: Katie

Last name: Kemper

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Chad Stewart, Forest Supervisor

GMUG National Forest

2250 South Main Street

Delta, CO 81416

Submitted via webpage: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=51806>

Dear Mr. Stewart,

Thank you for accepting these comments regarding the GMUG National Forest draft plan. As an avid outdoorswoman, current resident of Ouray County, and former resident of Gunnison County, I have explored lands and watershed within the GMUG. I value our public lands for their beauty, wildlife, solitude, ecosystem services, and recreation opportunities. I support, in its entirety, the Community Conservation Proposal (CCP) and the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative. Specifically, I want to endorse Bear Creek and Baldy in Ouray County as recommended wilderness and Bear Creek as eligible for "wild" suitability in the final plan's Wild and Scenic River evaluation. Bear Creek has spectacular scenery, phenomenal geology and obvious recreation values given the Bear Creek National Recreation Trail. It also provides critical bighorn sheep habitat qualifying it for wildlife Outstanding Remarkable Value. I also appreciate the Hayden Mountain region for its exceptional wildlife habitat and the opportunity to witness elk, moose, bighorn sheep and Canada Lynx in the area. Please protect Hayden Mountain with a special management area preferably a Special Interest Area as proposed in the CCP or at least as a Wildlife Management Area. Furthermore, I strongly suggest that all three of the landscapes above are unsuitable for timber in any portion of their acreage. I specifically want the GMUG to acknowledge the significant value of the Ironstone Fen and manage it to preserve its resource as a ground-water dependent ecosystem and habitat for imperiled species. Thank you for considering (and hopefully incorporating) my comments in finalizing the forest plan.