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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Dear Forest Service Planners,

I am grateful that individuals like myself, along with civic groups and other organizations for the opportunity to comment on the future plans for the GMUG National Forests before final decisions are made.

I have been a resident of the North Fork Valley and Paonia for over 18 years. I have also worked for Powderhorn Ski Resort on the Grand Mesa for the last 15 years. When not working up there I spend a significant amount of time recreating on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests. These special areas in Colorado represent a tremendous Financial and Ecological asset to the State of Colorado and especially the health and well-being of all those living on Colorado's Western Slope.

Proper management of these important wilderness areas is essential to protecting and preserving them for present and future generations. In these times of Global Climate change, it is far too common to read horrifying stories from around the world of mis-management and destruction of our world's natural resources.

I strongly support the recommended Wilderness designations in include in Alternative D and the Wildlife Management Concept presented in the draft plan.

The ongoing Climate Crisis has contributed to rising local temperatures, drought conditions, loss of habitat for wildlife, and destruction of local eco systems. It is more than just important that these areas we depend on be protected, it is essential.

Thank you for your important work updating a forest plan that has been in effect for almost 40 years. Much has happened in that time and the protection of wilderness, wildlife, and water resources need to be essential parts of our new forest plan.