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Title:

Comments: Of the alternatives in the draft plan, I give my support to alternative D.

I am not opposed to increased timber sales, especially in areas with beetle-kill. These areas are wildfires waiting to happen. The negative effects of timber extraction are outweighed by the negative effects should a fire get started in the areas.

I would like to encourage the addition of the East River to those with Wild and Scenic designation. One cannot argue that the upper East River is not scenic, but even more importantly, the Meanders stretch encompasses perhaps the finest example of "intact" and functioning willow carr habitat in the state. This habitat benefits wildlife, riparian-dependent vegetation, and protects the watershed.

I know it takes personnel, time and money to monitor Forest lands, but I encourage GMUG to make this a priority. With climate change, increased visitors, expanding beetle activity and so on, it is critical to know how the Forest is doing and to have information regarding the effects of new designations etc. How else is it possible to know how decisions affect the Forest?

I am firmly against adding motorized travel to any existing trails. We have all seen the degradation following increased ORV use- dust, noise, air pollution, destruction of vegetation, streambed disasters, refusal to allow hikers any right-of-way. Reclaiming such areas is time-consuming and may not even be possible in alpine or tundra areas, and it creates hard feelings if previously legal ORV use is curtailed if it is later deemed unsuitable for such use.

I greatly appreciate all the work that went in to this new plan for the GMUG and I applaud your efforts. Thanks for listening to the public.