

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/27/2021 12:48:36 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests

Attn: Plan Revision Team?2250 South Main Street?Delta, CO 81416

RE: Draft Revised Plan of the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre Gunnison National Forest

We make our home in the Ophir Valley. Ophir is a community of like minded conservation oriented people. We have an active Environmental Committee and maintain trash composting diverting over 7,500 pounds of trash from landfills per year. The Town bans motorized use of snowmobiles and ATVs in attempts to protect forested areas, dust mitigation and degradation of natural water sources and wildlife habitats. The Town commits to annual weed abatement and spends over \$10,000 per year to mitigate the growth of noxious weeds. The Town of Ophir is committed to the preservation of all natural resources for all of Colorado and the western areas of the United States that depend on our water as well as recreation and enjoyment of the precious national forest where we live.

At this time we cannot support the Draft Revised Plan Preferred Alternative B and would prefer Alternative D. The increase of suitable timber proposed in all alternatives is unacceptable. The GMUG forest is more valuable for ecosystem conservation and recreation than timber. Alternative D has the least land designated as suitable timber but the proposed areas designated are steep slopes prone to avalanches and uneconomical to harvest. We cannot support any of the GMUG draft plan Winter ROS Alternatives. Ophir is committed to non-motorized use in the forest of the Ophir valley. Motorized use impacts wildlife and the quiet enjoyment of forested recreation. Lynx, elk, moose and mountain lions are all present in the Valley and motorized traffic disrupts their calving and threatens their survival. Snowmobile traffic cannot safely follow the summer pass road and the east side of the valley should be changed to semi-primitive non-motorized during winter. As far as summer vehicle traffic Ophir has seen a sustained increase in road and pass travel in the past few years. Ophir is committed to non-motorized use of the forest and pass roads and would hope that motorized recreation could be sustainably managed. Dust, noise and vehicle pollution continually threaten species habitats. The Wildlife management Areas in the revised forest plan should be retained and enlarged. We support the 246,00 acres of Special Management Areas in Alternative D which gives the most benefit to wildlife.

Dayna Baer