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Comments: I have hiked, camped, and driven on the GMUG for over 40 years and have observed a substantial increase in the numbers of people using the NF roads, camping in dispersed sites, etc. The GMUB needs to prepare for this influx of recreationists and make that a priority equal to grazing, mining and timber harvest. The valley above Gothic, for example, gets heavy use and the road has deteriorated in spots; pull-offs and trailheads are crowded, and the ground is pounded. Attractions like the Beaver Pond trail on Ohio Pass Road bring so many people in that the small parking lot is filled and cars are parked along the road. One strategy would be to increase access points to the forest, for example to the Castles area off Ohio Pass road - via an easement.

Cattle are muddying the stream crossings, covering the ground with cow pies and are everywhere in evidence during the grazing season. At Beaver Lake on the Owl Creek Pass road we saw that cows had broken down a fence and were trampling the lakeside vegetation. Grazing strategies and management need attention and more staff on the ground.

We see no need for an increased timber harvest; the Draft Plan increases the lands designated as suitable by several hundred thousand acres, much of which is not really suitable at all - steep slopes, remote location, for example. The goal of timber harvest should be forest health, not providing jobs, and old growth should not be harvested due to its value for certain wildlife and its role in sequestering carbon.

I am concerned that only one bird species is designated as a Species of Conservation Concern. There are others on the Forest - black swift, boreal owl, Lewis' woodpecker, which are undergoing population declines, are linked to a specific habitat and should be designated as an SCC.

The Plan needs to contain strategies to deal with global warming/climate change, such as restoration and revitalization of aquatic ecosystems and riparian zones. One need - and it should be an objective - is to build a complete and accessible catalogue of who is diverting national forest streams, whether there are obsolete permits that can be devoted, and how much water is diverted.

I support Alternative D and the recommendation of all wilderness study areas and special management areas as Wilderness.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.