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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Supervisor Eickhoff,

I am writing in regard to the Ashley NF - Forest Plan Revision DEIS. I am a citizen in the area, and am an avid trail runner, fisher, hunter, and backpacker. The Ashley NF plan is planning revise the FS plan for managing the High Uintas wilderness, encompassing roughly 1.4 million acres. The Ashley FS recognizes that hunters are the highest-use recreational users (p. 96) and that hunting is a cultural heritage that needs to be preserved for multi-generation use (p. 190). With preserving my ability to hunt in mind, I'd like to voice my support in Alternative C. The other alternatives including managing more lands with the following recreation in mind - expansion of roads and motorized activities, mining and oil leases, and livestock grazing, which negatively contribute to changes in vegetation indicators (p. 106), erosion (p. 44), water quality (p. 61), and noxious weed infestations (p. 67).

Alternative C also limits the expansion of OHV recreation and encourages sustainable recreation. OHV usage can cause soil compaction and erosion (Meyer 2002, Marion and Leung 2004, Meadows et al. 2008) and disturbs wildlife (Wisdom et al. 2005). Currently the USFS recognizes that OHV trails are being built and used in areas which these are not allowed, however this usage is not managed and without current plan.

The SIOs for Alternative C also best protect the Uintas for future users and uses. The Uintas are 'the land of many uses,' and protecting the wilderness, watershed, and wildlife in the area will help manage the area for future uses (carbon sequestration, scientific study, etc) that may increase in time or become less available on public lands. The Uintas is a special area, and would be best preserved with the SIOs outlined in Alternative C for the future generations to enjoy.

Thanks,
Jennilyn

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