

August 8, 2017

United States Forest Service  
Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison Forest

Subject: GMUG Forest Plan

To Whom it May Concern:

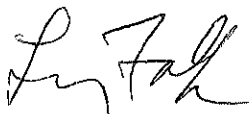
I live in Ridgway, Colorado and recreate weekly in the mountains of your jurisdiction. Last weekend while driving east to Denver on CO HWY 285 I was amazed at the number of cars, trucks, trailers and campers heading west, presumably to our area for a weekend of outdoor activities. I have made this trip many times and have noticed an ever increasing amount of traffic heading to our beautiful area. If you read the news Denver is one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas of our nation. As these folks seek relief from the metropolitan crowds and congestion I would propose that the GMUG forest needs to adapt to this trend.

Even though I live in a quiet rural area and am lucky enough to jump in my car and go for a quick hike I am concerned about finding a place to have some solitude. I am increasingly challenged to find an area in our forest that is quiet. I live near Ouray, the jeep capital of the west, and have to leave this area to find trails to hike on. I know the Off Road enthusiasts are a vocal group that demand more terrain but would ask you to consider at what cost do they impact our forest. As a hiker I leave no trace. I am not using fossil fuels nor do I bother other people while on the trail.

I am asking you to incorporate into your forest management plan these attributes:

- 1- Build more Camping sites to meet increased demand
- 2- Add more hiking trails to meet increased demand
- 3- Separate Off Road users from hikers-- sound travels far in the forest
- 4- Add more single track mountain bike trails
- 5- Maintain existing trails-- many are unrecognizable

Thank you,



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