

TO: Forest Planners, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison National Forests, Delta, CO

FROM: Bob Goettge, Crested Butte

SUBJECT: Comments on: DRAFT Forest Assessment: Benefits to People: Multiple Uses, Ecosystem Services, and Socioeconomic Sustainability

COMMENT 1: Page 20 Chapter 4. Conditions and Trends of GMUG Contributions to Social and Economic Sustainability.

Chapter 4 of this Assessment provides estimates of GMUG's contributions to local employment for GMUG programs. The estimates are taken from scientific analyses conducted by the USFS as documented in "USFS GMUG NFs Job and Income Contribution for 2014: At a Glance".

Recommendation: Add the document "USFS GMUG NFs Job and Income Contribution for 2014: At a Glance" to the list of data sources in the Section "Use of Best Available Science" on page 2 of the Assessment.

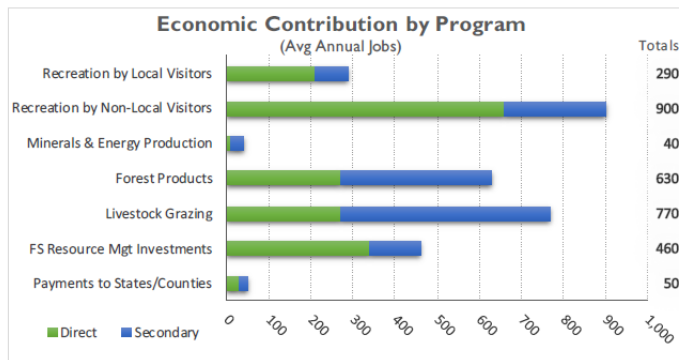
Recommendation: Add the document "USFS GMUG NFs Job and Income Contribution for 2014: At a Glance" to the list of references in the References section.

The "At a Glance" document has two excellent summary graphs illustrating employment data. Although the data appears in subsequent sections, it is important to present the summary of employment contributions in an easily understandable, comparative format.

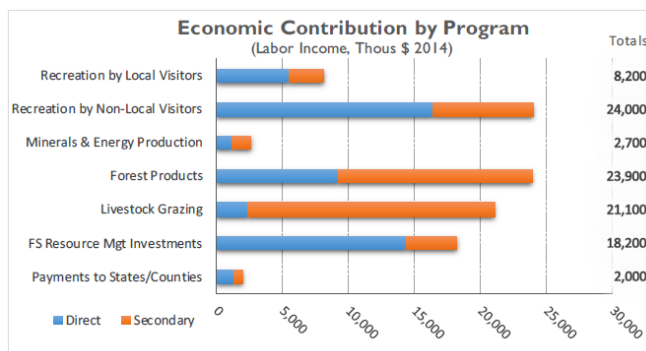
Recommendation: Add the following to the introductory material of Chapter 4 after the first paragraph of the Chapter. (Note: Many of these words appear directly in the "At a Glance" document).

"GMUG economic contribution focuses on employment and income because many people, particularly in local communities, identify with how management of the National Forests and Grasslands affects their ability to work and earn income."

"Employment is the estimate of average annual full-time, part-time, temporary, and seasonal jobs. In 2014, the GMUG NFs supported an estimated 3,140 jobs in the local area. The figure below shows the employment contributions by GMUG Program. Direct contributions come from economic activity associated with an FS program. Secondary contributions are the ripples of economic activity spurred by direct contributions. All GMUG job creation for Recreation, Forest Products (Timber) and Livestock Grazing were private sector jobs."



“Labor income is the value of wages, salaries and benefits for wage earners plus income to sole business proprietors. In 2014, the GMUG NFs contributed an estimated \$100,100,000 in labor income to the local area. Of \$100,100,000 78% went to local employee wages and benefits, while 22% was income to sole proprietors of local businesses. The figure below shows the labor income contribution by GMUG Program.”



COMMENT 2: Motorized Recreation, page 20-21

The section Motorized Recreation provides data exclusively on the contributions of Snowmobiling, Motorized Trail Activity and OHV use to the TOTAL ECONOMY of the State of Colorado. The GMUG Forest Plan revision deals only with local economies affected by GMUG activities. Data on the effect of motorized recreation on the TOTAL ECONOMY of Colorado has NO VALUE in assessing GMUG’s contributions to socioeconomic sustainability of local communities in Gunnison and other counties.

Recommendation: Delete the section Motorized Recreation. It has no useful information relevant to the assessment of GMUG economic contributions.

Recommendation: Delete the COVHCO study from the list of References. The study is not referenced in the Assessment except in section Motorized Recreation which should be deleted.