



Dear GMUG Planning Team,

Citizens for a Healthy Community submits the following comments for consideration and incorporation in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan revision. This submission addresses *Draft Assessment 10: Renewable and Nonrenewable Energy Resources, Mineral Resources, and Geologic Hazards*. Specifically, in this comment letter we address the issues of oil and gas, coalmine methane capture, and sustainability. We submit these comments with the goal of driving a more robust, accurate, and complete assessment of this topic.

We agree with the following comments in the conservation organizations comment letter submitted by High Country Conservation Advocates, Western Environmental Law Center, et al dated December 8, 2017 and hereby incorporate them by reference:

- I. Assessing Nonrenewable Energy Resources on the GMUG,
- II. Draft Assessment Report Chapter 1 - Introduction,
- III. Draft Assessment Report Chapter 2 – Conditions and Trends
 - Nonrenewable Energy, Oil and Gas,
 - Changed Conditions – Roadless,
 - Current and Projected Potential Development Activity,
 - Energy-Related Infrastructure,
 - Coal Mine Methane and Methane Capture,
- IV. Draft Assessment Report Chapter 3 - Sustainability,
- V. Draft Assessment Report Chapter 4 – Current Forest Plan and Its Context within the Broader Landscape,
- VI. Draft Assessment Report Chapter 5 – Potential Need for Plan Changes

The GMUG has an opportunity in forest plan revision to make great strides in sustainable use and protections of the forest for future generations of Americans. However, the long-term viability of these strategies, programs, and goals could be severely impacted by nonrenewable

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mineral and energy development. Fossil fuel development, in particular oil and gas development, is known to cause a variety of problems that are detrimental to natural resource conservation, and by failing to seriously address this issue, the GMUG may undermine any conservation efforts or goals it identifies in the revised Forest Plan.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Forkes-Gudmundson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Forkes-Gudmundson
Associate Program Director
Citizens for a Healthy Community