Date: December 8th, 2017

Subject: Response to Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests

DRAFT Forest Assessments

To: USFS GMUG planning personnel

From: Sven Edstrom

Delta County Resident

Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association, Inc. (COPMOBA) Board Member

Delta Area Mountain Bikers (COPMOBA Chapter) Committee Chairperson

Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association Member

Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association Member (IMBA Chapter)

I am writing to you today to indorse other comments related to recreation that have been submitted by my colleagues and peers. Due to lack of time, and short comment period allowed for this part of the process, I will not be submitting an in-depth analysis of the DRAFT Forest Assessments. With that said, I support all comments submitted by the organizations I am a part of that are listed above, most notably COPMOBA. My philosophies and goals related to recreation and sustainable development fall in line with individual comments submitted by the likes of Luke Tembrock, Scott Winans, Dan Antonelli, and David Ochs to list a few. As a whole, I support the responsible development and proper maintenance of non-motorized trail systems within the GMUG.

Some specific requests I would like to make today to be considered are the development of non-motorized winter trails for fat bikes on Grand Mesa, between Skyway and County Line ski areas. Another request, as more accurately defined in Luke Tembrock’s comments, is the restructuring of the Raggeds Trail 820 and associated tributary trails in that area for more sustainable and enjoyable use. I too believe this area could be properly developed to accomplish a regional scale destination trail, to include corridors spanning from Carbondale to Paonia to Crested Butte. Lastly, the development of a maintenance program for backcountry trails in the area of Mendicant Ridge out of Crawford is desired and seemingly appropriate. I also support the progress that the GPLI working group has made as it pertains to special management areas (SMAs) in regions such as these.

As a former employee of the GMUG on the Motorized Trail Crew for the Gunnison Basin, I am acutely aware of the challenges we all face when it comes to recreational use on public lands. Looking back to 1998 when I was employed, it was evident then that travel management and overuse concerns would only escalate as time moved on. A lot of good work has been put forth since then, and I believe some good results have been realized because of strong partnerships with advocacy groups and stellar FS employees such as Greg Austin and others. I applaud the GMUG Management for embarking on an assessment of this magnitude, and look forward to the positive results that will be forthcoming.