Phillip H. Virden

P.O. Box 818

Lake City, CO 81235

April 8, 2018

GMUG National Forests

Attn: Forest Plan Revision Team

2250 S. Main Street

Delta, CO 81416

To Whom It May Concern:

As a follow up to my August 17, 2017 letter concerning the importance of including light pollution policies into the future Gunnison National Forest management plan, I would like to add the following information:

* The Sawtooth National Forest has a Dark Sky Reserve designation. The Forest Service here supports the designation as part of its mandate to preserve natural and scenic qualities. It has reduced light pollution from its buildings and encourages the implementation of lighting guidelines as highlighted in www.darksky.org.
* In its recent plan, the Rio Grande Forest has included dark skies standards. Facility and infrastructure projects that require exterior lighting for safety must employ “dark sky preservation” techniques to reduce excess light pollution and preserve valued views of dark skies.
* The Gunnison National Forest’s neighbor – Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park is a designated Dark Sky Park.
* There is an ever-increasing interest in astronomy in the region as noted by the Black Canyon Astronomical Society, the Gunnison Valley Observatory, and, in Lake City, a portable planetarium.
* The International Dark Sky Association – [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org) - provides a wealth of information about protecting our night skies from light pollution.

Once again, I encourage the Gunnison National Forest to take measures to preserve and protect the treasure of its night time environment, our nation’s heritage of dark skies, and for Gunnison National Forest visitors to continue to enjoy viewing our incredible starry night universe.

I am happy to address any questions or comments you may have. Otherwise, I thank you for your serious consideration of my recommendation for the Gunnison National Forest to include dark sky measures in its future forest plan.

Respectfully,

Phillip H. Virden