



COLORADO

**Frank Whidden, Ph.D.
County Administrator**

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April 12, 2018

Mr. Scott Armentrout, Forest Superintendent
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison National Forests
2250 South Main Street
Delta, CO 81416

Re: Extension Request Scoping-GMUG Forest Plan Revision

Dear Mr. Armentrout:

The Mesa County Board of County Commissioners respectively requests at least a 30-day extension on the scoping comment period for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest (GMUG) Plan Revision. The Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register on April 3, 2018 states: "Comments concerning the preliminary need for change provided in this notice must be received by May 3, 2018. The Draft EIS is expected in the spring of 2019, and the Final EIS is expected in the spring of 2020."

We find 30 days to be an inadequate amount of time for our Board and county staff to do a thorough review and comment. As you may know, representatives of the affected counties are scheduled to meet with GMUG staff on May 3, 2018, to discuss how to best participate in the GMUG Forest Plan revision and prioritize "Needs of Change" (the same day the scoping period concludes). Additionally, Mesa, Delta and Montrose Counties are in the midst of procuring consultant services to assist us with the GMUG Plan revision process. An extended scoping period will allow us to better coordinate with our neighboring counties and ultimately be a better partner in the important planning process.

The Board appreciates the opportunity to participate in the GMUG Forest Plan revision and looks forward to continued coordination and cooperation with the Forest Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Whidden", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Frank Whidden
Mesa County Administrator

cc: Boards of County Commissioners - Delta, Montrose, Gunnison, San Miguel, San Juan,
Ouray, Hinsdale, Sagauche, Garfield
Congressional Delegation
Governor Hickenlooper