To: GMUG Forest Management Plan Team

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your scope of the forest planning document. I am a master’s student at the University of Colorado, Boulder in the Masters of the Environment Program with a specialization in Sustainability Planning and Management. I am writing you today in **support of the proposed Gunnison Public Lands Initiative**. This initiative allows for the people of Colorado to utilize the forest land of GMUG the way that they choose as well as maintaining the landscape for all the value it holds including but not limited to *exceptional recreational, wildlife, natural, grazing, scenic, scientific and water values*. The Gunnison Public Lands Initiative strives to **permanently protect** these values that the Colorado population want to maintain for their future generations to not only have and have access to be enjoy to the fullest.

I also **support Part 2 of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests Forest Plan Revision: Scoping document**. The *Key Needs for Change* follow the basis of allowing a forest to move into the future while maintaining its integrity throughout. This aligns with the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative and would be an appropriate place to incorporate it within the Forest Management Plan.

The Gunnison Public Lands Initiative also will provide guidance for Part 3 of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests Forest Plan Revision: Scoping document. The initiative will cover all the sub-categories throughout Part 3.

The Gunnison Public Lands Initiative will help to protect **American white pelican, burrowing owl, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, ferruginous hawk, gray vireo, Gunnison sage-grouse, greater sandhill crane, bald eagle, Colorado river cutthroat trout, roundtail chub, kit fox, river otter, white-tailed prairie dog, *Thalictrum heliophilum*, *Lomatium concinnum, Physaria pulvinata, Astragalus debequaeus, Cirsium perplexans,*** and ***Physaria rollinsii****.* This is just an example of some of the species that will be protected through the initiative.

I look forward to being able to recreate in GMUG and enjoy it for what it is. The people of Colorado that I have spoken to about this truly appreciate the National Forest for what it is and what it has to offer. **Please consider the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative for the GMUG National Forest.**

Thank you for your time.

Emily Bovenzi