



Please consider this a public comment on
the Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison National Forest revised plan.

2018

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Area or trail name: All of the GMUG is near + dear to my heart!

Describe the area and your historical use/knowledge of the area.

I grew up in Colorado + have lived in Grand Junction for the past 3 years. My favorite part of GJ, + the biggest contributor to my quality of life, is the amazing access to the wild + beautiful places of W. Colorado. I value these mesas, mountains, rivers + deserts not only for the joy they give to me + my family, but because they are sacred spaces to revere + protect. I want my children to grow up knowing these wild areas.

Why is the area important from your perspective?

As a GJ resident, I value the clean water from the Grand Mesa + know that healthy forests support healthy watersheds that nourish all life - from my kids, to the deer, to the fish. I've gone camping, hiking, + boating throughout the GMUG area - ~~per~~ and have treasured memories of canoeing w/my daughter on the Grand Mesa, camping w/my dad on Kelso Mesa, hiking a mountain pass w/a mountain goat in the Holy Cross Wilderness, finding an owl pellet in the Uncompahgre Wilderness, + camping near Crystal Peak at a spot we dubbed "Shangri-La." These places deserve respect + preservation because of their inherent worth, and they also provide for people's mental, physical, emotional + spiritual health.

How would you like to see this area managed by the Forest Service and why?

I'd like to see the Forest Service designate as wilderness all of the areas recommended in the GmUG plan, as well as designate additional areas as special interest. Managing our forests + our public lands in such a way will help protect plant + wildlife corridors, migration routes, air quality, clean water, + treasured recreation opportunities. Every time I go anywhere in WCO - the Monument, the Mesa, Uncompahgre Plateau, the San Juans, etc. etc. etc. - I am blown away + so thankful that I can visit + live in these places! It is our collective responsibility, + the responsibility of the Forest Service, to preserve + act as good stewards of these lands.

Additional Comments

My 4 year old daughter loves going camping + eating marshmallows in the GmUG + enthusiastically supports the GmUG proposals for wilderness + watershed protections.