

4/24/18

Dear Forest Planning Team (Sam et. al),

Thank you for all your work reviewing and collating comments (even poorly spelled ones).

This initial comment concerns wilderness and remaining wild lands on the GMB.

I support the conservationists plan for designating wilderness and special mgmt areas. I am especially in support of some level of protection for the Cochitopa hills area - due to its importance as a landscape-level connector betw. the Gunnison Basin, San Luis Valley. The area exhibits a high diversity of conifer species, and its rolling terrain (with one of the Cont. Divides lowest points) is unique. Thus, it has been gaining popularity w/ motorized users. Please look seriously at Cochitopa Hills - I've spent a lot of time there over the past 25 years. It is worth some level of support - maybe a core wilderness sort of long brand (Lake Brand some call it) and an additional protected zone or unit and rest of this core. Basically, conservationists' proposal. These comprise my initial comments during this scoping period. More later!

Thanks Again.

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