

Town of Crested Butte

P.O. Box 39 Crested Butte, Colorado 81224

-National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2008 Dozen Distinctive Destinations Award Recipient-

-A National Historic District-

Phone: (970) 349-5338
FAX: (970) 349-6626
www.townofcrestedbutte.com

April 16, 2018

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests
Attn: Plan Revision Team
2250 South Main Street
Delta, CO 81416

Submitted via email to: gmugforestplan@fs.fed.us

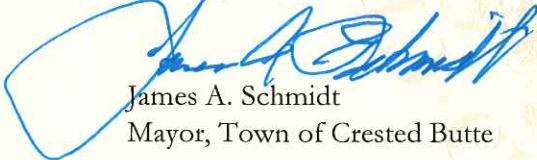
Dear Scott Armentrout and the GMUG Forest Planning Team,

Thank you for including the previous Town comments into the March 2018 Forest Plan Revision: Scoping.

We have reviewed Scoping Document and have the following specific comments to offer to be included.

We continue to appreciate your ongoing effort to encourage public participation and look forward to continuing to participate in the Forest Plan Revision.

Sincerely,



James A. Schmidt
Mayor, Town of Crested Butte

At-Risk Species

Previous comments from the Town on the released assessment identifies mule deer and elk hunting as large-economic drivers. Please also include the fisheries including trout. Scenery-viewing and passive wildlife watching also draw significant numbers of visitors to the Town of Crested Butte and are also major economic drivers. Each summer, the Crested Butte Wildflower Festival brings hundreds of visitors to our Town to look at wildflowers, and other flora and fauna. Non-consumptive wildlife and plant use should also be considered in the March 2018 Scoping Document.

Oil and gas can be a risk factor for some flora and fauna populations¹, but is not identified as a risk-factor in the assessment (pg. 34).

The Town of Crested Butte is concerned that there are such a large number of at-risk species identified on the GMUG, with many of their corresponding ecosystems predicted to decline by more than 30% with climate change. The Town of Crested Butte is dependent upon intact, high-functioning ecosystems for our tourism-driven economy and our high-quality of life. We would encourage the Forest Service to consider including adding flora, fauna and other at-risk species under the “Maintain the Diversity of Plant and Animal Communities” Section of the March 2018 Scoping Document.

Gunnison Public Lands Initiative

The health and wellbeing of Crested Butte are inextricably linked to the surrounding Gunnison National Forest. At the same time, national forest and public lands conditions, uses, and impacts are changing. Recognizing this, the town acknowledges and supports the efforts of the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative (GPLI) to develop a community vision for local public lands. The GPLI is truly a collaborative, community-driven, science-based process. Utilizing landscape-level conservation designations and management emphases, the GPLI proposal promotes a balance between recreational, ecological, and economic values. The Town requests that the GPLI proposal be incorporated into the revised forest plan and analyzed in one or more alternatives, including the proposed alternative, in the environmental impact statement (EIS).

¹ Johnson, Heather E., et al. 2016. “Increases in residential and energy development are associated with reductions in recruitment for a large ungulates.” *Global Change Biology*. Available online: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.13385/full>