To: GMUG Plan Revision Team

I am commenting on the GMUG Revision Plan. I am a fifth generation rancher in western Colorado and my family has a permit on the Uncompahgre in the Mudholes allotment. I am also a multi-generational rancher to run on this allotment. Although, it has skipped a few generations we are now back on some of the original country my family used to run on. We have had this permit for 12 years now.

Our Ranch’s mission statement involves always focusing to leave the land and resources better then we found them. By focusing on this we feel we are able to improve the ground and increase the productivity of it. Ranchers who graze on public lands also serve as stewards for that land. Ranchers’ commitment to

effective stewardship includes ongoing efforts to preserve clean waterways, control invasive plants and

non-native grasses, and protect endangered species. They also maintain feeding areas used by native

species and serve as first responders during disasters like forest fires. We spend a lot of time reconstructing watering holes by putting in spring boxes and then piping them to tanks that we put in. We also make it a focus to clean or improve several ponds on our permit. We also try to replace once stretch of fence a year.

As ranchers we are very open to recreation as my ancestors are the ones that built a lot of the roads and trails recreationalists use, and are happy to share. But, we would like to see the same regulations and monitoring of them as we are under. We support the need to consider recreational implications in Forest Plan conditions are developed. Recreation must be managed, as other uses are, as they impact the functionality and health of the ecosystem. A key element of management is monitoring recreational impacts. We work with them to make it easier for both of us by putting in ATV, Motorcycle, and Bicycle cattlegaurds so they don’t have to open and close gates.

As a rancher in western Colorado this is not only how we support our families but, it is also a lifestyle and heritage to us. Thank you all for your time and consideration with our comments.

Dean VanWinkle

VanWinkle Ranch LLC.