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To the GMUG Plan Revision Team

My name is Dan Cronk I am a fourth generation farmer and rancher in Mesa County. I own a 179 cow permit on Leon Creek. I have the following comments to submit for your consideration:

1. The planning process should consider carefully implications from one use to another. Such as implications to livestock grazing or resource impacts from activities such as recreation, etc. Livestock grazers have long since managed resources, through timing, duration and stocking rates to deliver high quality habitat that supports diverse ecosystems.
2. 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, clean and develop ponds and stock tanks, 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 fire.
3. According to the Department of the Interior, grazing on public lands contributes a minimum of $1.5 billion annually to the economy. Ranchers pay the federal government approximately $12 million for grazing permit fees. Ranchers pay taxes on the public lands permits they hold.
4. 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.
5. GMUG Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study areas must continue to be managed in context of historic uses…such as grazing, improvement construction and maintenance, mechanized vehicle use, etc.