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May 30th, 2018

Ms. Samantha Staley
Forest Plan Revision Team Lead
GMUG National Forests
2250 South Main Street
Delta, Colorado 81416

Dear Ms. Staley,

The City of Fruita ("the City") understands that the US Forest Service intends to update the Forest Plan for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests' (GMUG) to replace the 1983 GMUG Forest Plan. We appreciate that the U.S. Forest Service is seeking comment of the Forest Plan Revision and we would like to take the opportunity to participate in this process, starting with comments on the scope of the plan revision. As such, the City provides the following comments as the U.S. Forest Service prepares the Draft Forest Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The City holds approximately 205 acres (80 acres on and around Fruita Reservoir #1 and 125 acres immediately east and north of the Fruita Picnic Area) of land within the Fruita Division of the Grand Mesa National Forest. The City's properties in addition to the Fruita Division of the GM National Forest have become important and well-used recreational areas for the citizens of Fruita and others who recreate in the area.

In addition to land, the City of Fruita maintains water rights at Fruita Reservoirs #1, #2 and #3 (all within the GM National Forest). While the City of Fruita is unable to direct water from these reservoirs directly to the Fruita citizens, these rights are maintained by the City and are utilized by the Glade Park Water Users Association and other nearby property owners. The City would like to ensure that these water rights are maintained for an appropriate future use.

As the Forest Plan is developed, the City would like to have meaningful conversations with U.S. Forest Service regarding the vision (specifically public enjoyment and recreational opportunities) for the Fruita Division. This area adds to social and economic sustainability of the region through recreational opportunities like, mountain biking, fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, horseback riding and much more. These recreational opportunities are in many cases undefined and dispersed in nature and the City would like to participate in the addressing areas with high conflict by integrating recreational opportunities for sustained use. Finally, the

City would like to ensure the Revised Forest Plan provides direction for specific watersheds, including watershed restoration.

The City looks forward to our future communication regarding the development of a Revised GMUG Forest Plan and as a partner, the City appreciates the opportunity to provide comment in this initial scoping process. As the plan revision, develops, please feel free to contact me (970-858-3663, mbennett@fruita.org), Ken Haley, Public Works Director (970-858-9558, khaley@fruita.org), or Ture Nycum, Parks and Recreation Director (970-858-0360, tnycum@fruita.org).

Sincerely,



Mike Bennett,
City Manager
City of Fruita

Cc: Bill Edwards, District Ranger
Grand Valley District Office
U.S. Forest Service

Ken Haley, Public Works Director
City of Fruita

Ture Nycum, Parks and Recreation Director
City of Fruita