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*The sportsmen’s voice for our wild public lands, waters and wildlife*

# Colorado Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison National Forests May 24, 2018

Attn: Plan Revision Team

2250 South Main Street

Delta, CO 81416

Subject: Forest Plan Revision Scoping

My name is Adam Gall and I serve on the Colorado Chapter Board for Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. Specifically, I focus my efforts on the west central slope and the GMUG NF area. The Scoping Period for the GMUG Forest Revision is currently underway and I would ask that this official letter from the Colorado Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers be given consideration as the Planning Team puts the new plan together.

Just north of where I live exists the Elk Park Roadless Area. It’s an area of fantastic wildlife habitat and also where many watersheds and fishable waters exist that sustain trout populations. Hunters and anglers represent a huge demographic throughout this entire region of the Grand Mesa NF, not only in terms of days spent in the forest but in terms of economic contributors as well.

Within the Elk Park area exist several key areas that we feel meet the criteria for wilderness designation. The specific areas we would support as wilderness are the Chalk Mountain area (8,000 acres), the Elk Park Area (21,000 acres) and the Electric Mountain area (9,700 acres).

The benefits to wildlife, wildlife habitat and the numerous watersheds and reservoirs would be significant in the light of the increasing push for more oil and gas development that also exists on a large scale in this region. By taking conservation-minded measures now and protecting nearly 40,000 total acres that’s currently intact and unfragmented in and of themselves, we feel it would provide a balance to the development that is certain to continue in this part of the Grand Mesa.

If the Forest Planning Team has any questions or would like to discuss this in any further detail I would be glad to talk about it and can be reached at 970-527-5430 or my cell is 208-691-3014. As always, thank you for your time, effort and consideration in this very critical process.

Sincerely,

Adam Gall

Assistant Central West Slope Regional Director

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

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