Janet Wyatt

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First of all, thank you for allowing public comment on this very important document. This document will be a testament to how our actions now carry forward in how we value and conserve our forests and all they provide for us. I have only read parts of the document as it is very lengthy and detailed. One very important item I see lacking however is that there aren't any real concrete standards in how particular things are to be carried out. I would think that there would be scientific data to create these standards.

I would like to see this new forest plan include all the wilderness areas that were previously slated to be included in 2006, be included now. With population numbers on the rise, climate change an ever present threat and wildlife under stress, I feel this would help protect our diverse animal life while also providing carbon sequestration. We are losing our wilderness areas at a fast rate and need to forever protect them.

Included in the forest plan should be stronger language or standards to ensure that our watersheds are truly protected from being contaminated by fire mitigation efforts, oil and gas, grazing and any other man made threats. Thank you for hearing me out.

Bruce Driver

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I support the community proposal over the government's because it fills in holes contained in your proposal, which has too many "protections" that are voluntary when most should be mandatory.

Mary K Schmidt

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I support new wilderness areas in Gunnison County. Our economy is driven by visitors enjoying the beauty of our lands.

Kirby Hughes

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Hello, The plan provides weak direction for the protection of natural resources, and more standards and mandatory limits on action should be included in the plan. Only lands within the San Juan Mountains are recommended as wilderness, even though many other areas exhibit wilderness characteristics. I support new wilderness areas, including those in the Community Conservation Proposal, as well as those in the Grape Creek area south and west of Canon City. The proposed standard would permit timber harvesting in high-quality lynx habitat; I disagree with this. Guidelines for protecting big game on birthing grounds and winter range must be mandatory. The plan proposes to establish conservation watershed networks to protect watersheds and sensitive species but provides no detail on how the networks would be applied and maintained; we need this information.
Yours, Kirby Hughes 719-685-3019 kirbyhughes@mesanetworks.net