

June 22, 2019

RE: My comments on the GMUG Forest Plan Revision Working Draft

Dear Dear GMUG Forest Plan Revision Team,

I have the following comments related to the Working Draft of the GMUG Forest Plan Revision:

- I'm an avid fly fisherman and the conservation of watershed is very important to me and the thousands of other Coloradans who enjoy the sport. The plan proposes to establish conservation watershed networks to protect watersheds and sensitive species like trout and boreal toad, but provides no detail on how these networks would be applied and maintained. Please close any loopholes that would allow mineral exploration or extraction that would directly have a negative effect on fish species.
- Overall, the plan provides very weak, and in some cases non-existent, direction for protection of important resources. More standards, i.e., mandatory limits on action, need to be included in the plan.
- I support new wilderness areas. When it comes to land and forest management creating new wilderness areas should be a high priority especially when weighing the benefits given such as outdoor recreation and carbon capture of wilderness to combat climate change. I support the new wilderness areas including those in the Community Conservation Proposal and Gunnison Public Lands Initiative.
- When you say in the working draft that the protection of birthing grounds for big game is voluntary, in the real world that means it is non-existent. It needs to be mandatory. That is a loop hole period and needs to be fixed.
- It appears that about 100,000 more acres would be "suitable" for timber production under this plan versus the 1991 amended plan. This means more timber could be cut during the life of the new plan. We do not need to be cutting more. Why? Because we live in a new era where standing trees are more valuable than felled trees. Science (Climate Change) and the true cost of felling large acres of trees needs to be included in the Forest Plan. Climate change is a scientific agreed upon fact therefore must be considered and more weighted when drafting new forest plans. For example in a warming climate beetle kill will increase thus combatting climate change by limiting logging needs to be considered or forest lost will increase.

Sincerely,
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