Comments on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison Forest Plan Revision #51806

In general I support how the GMUG Forest is managed. I think there is a good balance between areas that provide both motorized, mechanized, and non-mechanized travel. I would not be in support of any whole sale or major changes to how the area is managed. However I will make a few specific comments on items I feel strongly about.

I support rivers and creeks being designated as Wild and Scenic.

* I support to continue to include Oh Be Joyful, West Elk Creek, West Soap creek, Copper Creek, Copper Lake, and Anthracite Creek as eligible.
* Also support to add in the following streams to be considered eligible for Wild and Scenic Designation: East River, Taylor River, Slate River, and Poverty Gulch

I support motorized winter use in the Slate River Corridor

I support more recreation based trails to be created in the GMUG (all types, mechanized, motorized, and non-mechanized). Our area is seeing increased traffic from tourist and full time residents. I think trails should offer the outdoor experience and should not be crowded. In order to maintain this possibility on some trails (there will always be busy trails) new trails should be constructed. This could include directional and purpose built trails.

I support trails being included in areas that are sensitive to wildlife. These trail can have seasonal closures to reduce impact to wildlife. In the southern part of the Gunnison Valley, recreationist have shown their willing to comply with seasonal closures for wildlife. I believe we can share these areas.

I support CBMBA plans to get riders off the road to reduce the conflicts between cars and bikes/hikers.

I support a trail that connects Gunnison to Crested Butte.

I support a requirement for all campers not using campgrounds to be required to carry toilet systems or wag bags.

I would support more developed campgrounds in the GMUG. Ideal areas would be out Brush Creek, and Kebler Pass.

I do not support increased mining and fracking in the GMUG. If extraction leases are granted I do not support them being in roadless areas. Also, if minerals are extracted those companies should be responsible for all clean up and should not be allowed to vent or flare gases. Those gases should be captured by the lessee and not just released in the atmosphere.

I support the existing vents from coal mines in the west elks to dealt with. These should not be allowed to just vent to the atmosphere.

I do not support wholesale approve of e-bike use on all bike trails. I think they should be allowed on motorized trails and specific trails that do not create potential for a high number of conflicts with non-e bikes. The longer this subject stays vague the harder it will be to deal with. All trails that allow bikes should be clearly marked as e-bikes being allowed or not allowed.

I do not support bikes in wilderness areas.