

Kathy Welt
36320 Highway 92
Hotchkiss, CO 81419

November 22, 2021

Mr. Chad Stewart, Forest Supervisor
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest
2250 South Main Street
Delta, CO 81416

RE: Comments on Draft Revised Land Management Plan and Draft EIS

Dear Mr. Stewart,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Forest Plan and supporting draft EIS. I am very supportive of Alternative C as it is the only alternative that maximizes essential *MANAGEMENT* of our Forest resources. Management has been sorely lacking, although I truly believe that it is not the fault of the agency, rather the over-litigious environment that we all live in. I have a degree in Natural Resources Management and Forestry and am very interested in seeing what can be done to try to get forest management back to working toward healthy forests, not just trying to defend good management decisions in court. I realize that's a big ask considering the state of our political environment, but we need to try to get back on track with good forest health science and not political agendas.

I have also been "raised" with the multiple use, sustained yield concept, and that the National Forests are the "lands of many uses" – not the lands that need to be segregated and designated as a protected and limited use areas, like Wilderness and Colorado Roadless designations. To have our Forests labelled as "general" areas and then these separate restricted use designated areas is ... well ... unacceptable! More than half of the GMUG is of limited use and restricted use, including limits to actual, active forest health management. Will we have to have the 50+% restricted access and use areas burn before we realize that active Forest health management absolutely necessary? Grazing and treatments, like brush-crushing, prescribed burns, limited accesses for oil & gas and coal uses help to minimize the fuel load in the understory and provide fire breaks and access for firefighting efforts.

For these reasons (and more not mentioned), I support Alternative C, as it is the only alternative that maximizes actual management of our National Forests. Unless we are able to actively manage our Forests, we will lose more and more forest acres to wildfire, beetle kill and other issues – all with a quick finger to point at fossil fuel uses rather than proper, healthy forest management of our Forests.

Sincerely,

Kathy Welt

Kathy Welt