

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/14/2017 7:08:24 PM

First name: lisa

Last name: allee

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Re: GMUG Draft Assessment Comments

Brittany,

Thanks so much for the response! I read more of the assessments--y'all have been busy! I have a few more comments, which I hope can be incorporated:

--in the Terrestrial Ecosystems Assessment in the section on oil and gas there is no mention of some critical effects of oil and gas extraction: negative effects on air quality (I noticed that a separate air quality assessment is planned, but it should be mentioned here, too); spills--they have happened and they will again; contaminants including fuels, solvents and toxic chemicals used in drilling and fracking; effects on water quality and amounts of water available to humans, plants and animals especially with fracking; ozone creation due to mixing of generator exhaust and VOCs at well pads; flaring affecting air quality and increasing greenhouse gases--These need to be added to make the assessment complete!

--in the section on fire there is no mention of the fact that prescribed burns increase greenhouse gases and damage air quality. These effects need to be factored into any decision to burn to "prevent" forest fires.

--in the Recreation Assessment the focus is on the detrimental effects of increased dispersed camping, which is an excellent point, but other human activities need to be addressed with much more weight, particularly the use of motorized vehicles--tires cause much more damage than feet, the noise and air pollution of dirt bikes, ATVs and snow mobiles have much more detrimental effects than humans quietly and cleanly camping! AND once again you all need to include the overall climate change effect of recreational use of motorized vehicles.

--in the plan section of the Terrestrial Assessment there was a statement of "monitoring undesirable impacts of grazing"--WHAT??? We already know the undesirable impacts of grazing--it has been studied extensively especially in wetlands, stream beds and riparian areas. Your plan needs to say "Prevention of the undesirable impacts of grazing"!

--Climate change--I was impressed that this was mentioned repeatedly--good work! Please, however, take it a step further and rather than just talking about the effects of climate change and need for adapting, also include how the Forest Service can work to stop and reverse the things we do that are creating climate change--i.e. no more recreational motorized vehicle use in the National Forests! AND no more oil and gas or mineral extraction in the National Forests! The forests need to be allowed to be just that--forests!

Thank you for the opportunity to share these observations and suggestions.

Thank you for the work you do!

Sincerely,
Lisa Allee

From: Duffy, Brittany - FS <brittanyduffy@fs.fed.us> on behalf of FS-gmugforestplan <gmugforestplan@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2017 10:04 AM
To: lisaalleecnm@hotmail.com
Cc: FS-gmugforestplan
Subject: RE: GMUG Draft Assessment Comments

Good morning Lisa,

Thank you for comments regarding the draft Recreation Assessment. I hope you had a chance to check out some (or all) of the additional 16 draft Assessment Reports, particularly Terrestrial Ecosystems and Riparian and Aquatic Ecosystems, which speak to some of the important forest health issues you mentioned. We will also be publishing a draft Species Assessment Report later this winter, so I hope you will stay tuned for that given your interest in species. I hope you'll also consider joining our mailing list to make sure you're receiving updates, such as the publication of documents, opportunities to comment, and open house and webinar dates. As we emphasized in the assessment guide, these are still only drafts and we hope to continue improving them with feedback from interested members of the community like you. The team will carefully consider your comments, and if you have any further input, questions, or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Thank you,
Brittany

Brittany Duffy
Assistant Forest Planner
Forest Service
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests
p: 970-874-6649
f: 970-874-6698
brittanyduffy@fs.fed.us
2250 South Main St.
Delta, CO 81416
www.fs.fed.us
<<http://usda.gov/>> <[https://twitter.com/forestservice](https://twitter.com/forestsservice)> <<https://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Forest-Service/1431984283714112>>
Caring for the land and serving people

-----Original Message-----

From: lisaalleecnm@everyactioncustom.com [mailto:lisaalleecnm@everyactioncustom.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2017 11:01 PM
To: FS-gmugforestplan <gmugforestplan@fs.fed.us>
Subject: GMUG Draft Assessment Comments

Dear GMUG Planning Team,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful work to protect our most precious resource--intact forests. I have read

your review of recreational use in the GMUG and it seems thorough except for two glaring omissions--the impact of human activity on non-human species and on climate change. Most importantly I want to request that you include as a top priority in your plan the voices that are not heard, those of the non-human species that live in the forests you protect, as they are crucial to the health of the forests. And in so doing, please make decisions repeatedly that decrease the use of motorized vehicles and drones overall and work to keep any motorized use that is continued very close to populated areas rather than disturbing the non-humans and humans that seek quiet in the areas away from populated areas. Please also, for all of us that live on this planet, drastically decrease the use of motorized vehicles everywhere as this will have a two-fold public health effect--it will encourage people to be more physically active and, therefore, be more healthy, and it will decrease the demand for extracting and resulting destructive emissions from burning fossil fuels, slowing our rapid destruction of our and others' home. (Clearly this would also include drastically decreasing logging and oil and gas extraction in the other sections of the plan!!) I hope that you will see and grasp your role in the big picture and have the courage to do these things for the good of all! Be brave!

Sincerely,
Ms. Lisa Allee
14493 Road 31 Mancos, CO 81328-9154
lisaalleecnm@hotmail.com

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