

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/26/2018 6:00:00 AM

First name: Alex

Last name: Johnson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: WSCC Supplemental Scoping Comments specific to Lamborn and Coal Mountain Areas

Dear Supervisor Armentrout,

The Western Slope Conservation Center submits these supplemental comments on behalf of our 600 members who live, work, and recreate in the North Fork and Lower Gunnison watersheds. We appreciate the hard work of the GMUG Forest Service staff as they thoughtfully carry out the GMUG Forest Plan Revision.

The attached proposals are based on additional community involvement, on-the-ground fieldwork, and best-available science. These landscape-level conservation recommendations provide additional information and data regarding the current characteristics and conditions of these areas. We put forward recommendations that take into account historic and existing uses, as well as possible future user conflict. We believe these recommendations will preserve current and historic uses of the forest, which will mitigate future use conflicts, as well as sustain the local land-based economy.

Specifically, if new management prescriptions or designations significantly limit existing mechanized recreation use or access, then the Western Slope Conservation Center supports reasonable mitigation of access impacts by identifying alternative routes more appropriate for ongoing and future mechanized use within relative proximity to the area. We are actively communicating with mechanized user groups and the local recreation community through an ongoing, and productive, process to address potential conflicts.

We did not previously submit this data since Gunnison Public Lands Initiative (GPLI) may have been submitting recommendations relevant to these areas. It is unclear, however, when and if GPLI will be weighing in on the Coal and Lamborn areas, and so we want to be sure that the GMUG Planning Staff is aware of the attached information and local support for conservation management of these areas.

Additionally, we have a growing volunteer capacity for trail and land stewardship here in the North Fork Valley and the Western Slope, and we endeavor to provide capacity support to the GMUG Forest Service and the Paonia Ranger District as they manage these areas over the coming years. As such, we urge the Forest Service to adopt and incorporate the proposal's area recommendations in the revised GMUG Forest Plan.

Kind Regards,

Alex Johnson

--

Alex Johnson

Executive Director

Western Slope Conservation Center

director@theconservationcenter.org

Office: 970-527-5307

Cell: 970-778-8181

www.westernslopeconservation.org

Follow us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter