

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/29/2019 6:00:00 AM

First name: Maddie

Last name: Rehn

Organization: Gunnison Public Lands Initiative

Title:

Comments: Re: GMUG Working Draft Forest Plan

Dear Acting Forest Service Supervisor Jerry Krueger and GMUG Planning Team,

The Gunnison Public Lands Initiative (GPLI) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) Working Draft Forest Plan. The GPLI is a distinct, community-based endeavor, the result of a committed group of citizens working collaboratively since February 2016 to develop a consensus-based and broadly supported vision for managing key National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands in Gunnison County. Through careful analysis and vetting, the GPLI proposal identifies outstanding landscapes for additional protections for their recreation, wildlife, water, grazing, wilderness, and other values.

The GPLI has engaged with the GMUG as part of the Forest Plan revision process. In September 2017, former Forest Supervisor Scott Armentrout, Gunnison District Ranger Matt McCombs, and other agency staff met in Gunnison with the coalition to discuss the relationship between forest revision and the GPLI. Out of that discussion came a desire by the GPLI to participate in the planning process.

The GPLI has submitted several comments during the planning process, starting in November 2017 during the Assessment phase, in June 2018 for Scoping, and for both the Wilderness Inventory and Evaluation processes in January and September 2018. Most recently, the GPLI submitted its revised January 2019 proposal for consideration by the planning team in February. While each comment focused on a distinct aspect of the revision process, a common theme ran through all of them: the desire of the GPLI to see the proposal reflected to the greatest extent possible in the revised GMUG Forest Plan.

We are disappointed that little of the GPLI proposal is reflected in the Working Draft. We reiterate our commitment to this process, to the proposal, and to a land management approach that embraces the consensus-based recommendations we have identified. We respectfully ask that the GMUG acknowledge and incorporate the GPLI's recommendations in the agency's preferred alternative going forward. A revised forest plan that includes the broadly-supported special management area and wilderness recommendations developed by the GPLI will best serve the communities in Gunnison County and the broader public.

Thank you for your consideration.

Multiple Signatories