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Organization:

Title:

Comments: First, I'd like to thank the Forest Service for their hard work on the GMUG plan and revisions. I live in Ouray County, Colorado and highly value the wild and scenic lands and waters surrounding me. I hike regularly along Bear Creek, Hayden mountain, and on Baldy Mountain and highly value the roadless character and wildlife living in these areas. I see big horn sheep and herds of elk regularly. I see moose tracks all winter while x-country skiing. In the spring, I frequently observe lambs and elk calves. This wildlife needs additional protections. My specific comments include:

Bear Creek and Baldy Mountain

*Bear Creek should be recognized as having a Recreation ORV.

*Bear Creek was found eligible in the GMUG's 2005 Wild and Scenic Comprehensive Assessment (not adopted) but not in the current draft forest plan. There is no evidence or explanation that conditions have changed diminishing Bear Creek's ORVs.

*Bear Creek and Baldy Mountain should be added as wilderness to the existing Uncompahgre Wilderness.

Hayden Mountain & Mount Abram should include more management protections into the future. This area seems especially important as a migratory route for wildlife between the two wilderness areas. Whenever I hike Hayden Mountain, I see herds of elk with their young. I have seen three moose in the Ironton area in 2021, one in August (Bull moose) and two in September (mother and calf) (see attached photos). I have also seen lynx tracks on occasion.

Bear Creek, Cow Creek, and Roubideau Creek should be designated as Wild and Scenic Eligible Rivers.