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Comments: To: Forest Service Managers Manti-La Sal National Forest

We strongly urge the Forest Service to suspend consideration in the Forest Plan to allow commercial bee growers to "rest" their bees on lands within the Utah's Manti-Sal National Forest. While honey bees are valuable because they can be moved from farm to farm, that mobility exposes them to pathogens that proliferate in apiaries. When introduced to a new environment, the commercial honey bees introduce diseases to native bees that can wipe out local colonies. In addition, the influx of hives under consideration in the Forest Plan could introduce as many as 50,000 bees thus stealing native habitat and food sources for the native bees, causing them to starve and die.

Habitat loss, pesticides, monocrop agriculture and global temperature rise are already severely impacting threatened populations of native bees. The Forest Plan could take strong steps to preserve and protect the very pollinators that allow the forest to thrive. Please take a strong position to protect native bees in the Manti-Sal Forest by prohibiting the use of these precious national lands by commercial bee growers.