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First name: Christian
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Organization: Club 20
Title: Executive Director
Comments: [Copied from attachment]

November 22, 2021

Chad Stewart

Forest Supervisor

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, & Gunnison National Forests

2250 S. Main Street

Delta CO 81416

chad.stewart@usda.gov

RE: GMUG Forest Revision Plan Comments

Dear Mr. Stewart and GMUG Planning Team,

Thank you for the countless hours spent working on the GMUG Forest Plan Revision. Balancing the charge of multiple uses along with ecosystem preservation and stakeholder engagement is no easy task and we greatly appreciate all your work on this plan revision.

Club 20 supports active forest management to preserve healthy watersheds and ecosystems for the forest and surrounding communities and encourages this revision process to consider water and watersheds when making any land management decision. We also strongly encourage the use of current science and local knowledge to inform the outcome of this process.

As you know, approximately 70% of Colorado[rsquo]s forested landscape is in Western Colorado and these forests are the source for the drinking water throughout our region and for downstream states via natural watersheds and river systems. These forests also provide irrigation water to our farm and ranch community and

support many of the critical economic drivers of our region and provide western Colorado with the quality of life that makes our region one of the most incredible places to live, work, and play. Additionally, protecting and maintaining the GMUG[rsquo]s grazing program supports the ranching community, helps to maintain agricultural open space, and has contributed to a specialized rural agricultural society with a strong interest in public land stewardship.

Club 20 supports balancing a new coordinated fact-based forest management direction that respects the sustainability of many multiple uses activities and elevates protecting our water security, quality, and quantity. We believe this should be a key priority in the revision process. Analyzing threats and opportunities specific to water security and to the ecological integrity of all critical watersheds, water storage reservoirs, conveyances, and ditches should be a primary activity to assist our state and region in meeting the current unprecedented conditions and arising challenges to our forests in an evolving climate era.

Implementing forest restoration activities that lead to healthier headwaters, diverse recreational opportunities, improved carbon sequestration, and reduced systemic threats to our rivers and streams should be a goal for all land management decisions and we appreciate your consideration of these remarks as you work through the GMUG Forest Plan Revision process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Christian Reece

Executive Director

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