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Organization:

Title:

Comments: input into GMUG forest plan

Hello,

I am writing to provide input into the GMUG forest planning process based on my attendance at the July 27th open house in Gunnison.

My perspective is based upon my use of the forest as a scientist working at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Crested Butte (Gothic).

I noted that the poster for Special Designation Areas did not include an SDA prioritizing research around Gothic, even though that was one of the top priorities that emerged from previous planning efforts in the early 2000's. I would hope that your planning efforts would consider public-private partnerships in generating science for management, in particular taking advantage of opportunities associated with RMBL research. Science conducted out of RMBL can both inform future management, but also can inform planning process itself, including data on pollinators, water, climate change, and invasive organisms. Such efforts are important given the very large federal and public investment in research through RMBL. With one of the largest annual expenditures in research, supported by NSF, DOE, and NIH, and the world's largest collections of long-term biological studies, any planning effort should consider how to steward and leverage that investment. This is especially important because the USFS has substantially less personnel than it used to, and this is at a time when there are dramatic increase in public recreation in the valleys north of Gothic.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Dr. Kailen Mooney

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[Dr. Mooney's calendar](#)

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