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Organization: Grand Valley Trails Alliance

Title: Board President

Comments: The Grand Valley Trails Alliance urges the GMUG Forest Plan team to protect, enhance, and prioritize trail-based recreation opportunities within the GMUG. With the expanding population of Colorado and the important contribution trail-based recreation provides to our community, economy, health, and identity as Western Coloradoans, trails are an essential resource. Opportunities for trail recreation provide residents and visitors an opportunity to enjoy the forest in a controlled, low impact manner that protects the forests, the wildlife, and other uses within our forests.. Trail adventures build advocates for our public lands and instill an appreciation for our beautiful forests. And trail users are engaged advocates for our forests. The members of the Grand Valley Trails Alliance represent tens of thousands of active trail users who, regardless of whether they are on foot, hoof, bike, motorcycle, ATV, 4x4, ski, snowmobile, or boat, volunteer their time to help maintain and build trail in GMUG forest, contribute generously through donations to support our public lands, and share their enjoyment of our forest trails with family and friends year-round. Our National Forests and especially the forests of the GMUG are what make life in the Grand Valley of Western Colorado such a great place to live and the access to the trails of the forest what makes it all possible. Trails must remain and grow as a management priority within the GMUG.