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Comments: 1. It has taken me days to get through the Draft Forest Assessments: Terrestrial Ecosystems:

Integrity and Ecosystem Stressors section. Dry stuff. My first comment is that you did not say anything about temperature affecting beetles that are killing spruce and pine trees. If the temperature goes below -40 degrees, does that affect the beetle? Or do you think that climate change means no more -40 degree weeks.

2. Despite the fact that the current administration in Washington seems to not embrace science, I am very supportive of your science based assessments.

3. Maintaining substantial Old Growth Areas should be a priority. The Terrestrial Ecosystems assessment did not discuss the wildlife that is dependent upon old growth areas. I hope there will be a discussion of this subject in a wildlife section of the plan.

4. Snags are important to some wildlife. As the Terrestrial Assessment points out, other National Forests have policies about snags. I think the GMUG should have policies about snags too, and I think the current percentage of snags per acre that is discussed in the assessment is a good place to start.

5. I agree, as stated on page 60, that minimum stocking standards should be reviewed to ensure they are appropriate given desired management objectives.

6. I strongly agree that the new plan should provide better direction for management of ecosystems to achieve desired outcomes based on best available science, including climate change, and the warming of the GMUG Forest.

7. I totally agree the plan should implement management actions that can improve integrity of key ecosystem characteristics and help maintain ecological integrity as outlined on page 61 of the Terrestrial Ecosystems Assessment.

8. On page 62 you discuss Ecosystem Specific needs. There is a quick mention in the first paragraph of "replanting" after salvage treatments. The High Country News recently pointed out that there is less support for National Forests and public land ownership by the federal government, in part, because people who live in towns surrounded by National Forests are not the people who are hired to work in the Forests. Tree planting is one thing that local people can do, and if they are working for the National Forest, maybe they will better support National Forests. So I encourage you to make it a priority to hire local people for tree planting and for salvage operations. I know that hiring immigrant labor can be done for less money and therefore, you can potentially get more done, but getting support for our National Forests should also be a priority. I am not expressing any issues about immigrant labor. I think immigrants, just like my grandparents, are fine folks.

9. I support the Ecosystem-Specific needs you have outlined starting on page 62 of the Terrestrial Ecosystems Assessment.

10. Specifically I am very concerned about the dead trees on the east side of Monarch Pass and the relatively healthy trees on the west side. I think this should be a priority area for treating the forest for beetles and other stressing influences.