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Comments: As the population of Colorado exponentially grows, Colorado's public lands are becoming more and more pressured. There is growing use and finite land, and I believe we need to do our best to protect the GMUG for its heritage and wilderness qualities that are quickly disappearing around the state and nation. We are in a time where self-control and self-limitation is necessary so that we don't hurt other species and ultimately, ourselves. The management of these lands should focus on keeping uses as they are, not expanding human footprint upon the lands that are currently less used. The management plan should focus more on sustaining outfitting and ranching practices, and less on expanding recreation, but rather bolstering management where recreation already exists.

The Assessments are notably silent on climate change pollution and its relationship to activities on the GMUG. The Forest Service must present climate pollution information from fossil fuel development in an Assessment. The GMUG should use the Social Cost of Carbon and Social Cost of Methane to inform and improve its policies and management.

The Assessment should consider Forest-wide standards with stipulations for coal leasing that limit uncontrolled methane venting from North Fork coal mines.

There is a need and opportunity for additional Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers on the GMUG. The Draft Assessment for Recreation states that the public wants more motorized trails, but this is unsubstantiated. Dispersed campsites need better management, especially those around Crested Butte. Timber production should not be allowed in roadless areas.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Yale