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First name: Thomas

Last name: Grant

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for inviting public comment on the GMUG Forest Plan Revision. The existing plan is out-dated and the revision should incorporate the numerous social, recreational, and extraction oriented issues that the forest faces. Concerning coal mining and the release of methane gas, it has been shown by the West Elk Coal mine that methane can be captured and utilized to power their ventilation system. Methane is a highly reactive greenhouse gas and the capture of it should be mandated for all coal mines on public lands. I request that you include this stipulation in your forest plan. It is a win-win situation, since the capture reduces greenhouse gas emissions that increase climate change and creates energy to power on-site machinery.

This brings up my next concern - climate change. Our forests have been heavily and obviously impacted by a changing climate, specifically with forest health and wildfire issues. Greenhouse gases and the subsequent climate change should be included in forest planning.

As a frequent non-motorized and motorized user of the forest, I think more information is needed before motorized recreation is allowed in more areas. Personally, I feel that there is a reasonable balance between motorized and non-motorized access, and would prefer to see no expansion of motorized use.

Roads have incredible impacts to forests (erosion, invasive weeds, river sedimentation, edge effects), especially poorly planned or maintained roads. The density of roads in the GMUG is high and no new roads should be allowed in roadless areas. The USFS needs to do a better job of maintaining existing roads before creating more roads that will not be maintained. The cost of road maintenance is high and I feel that the burden for logging roads falls too heavily on the USFS (and subsequently tax-payers) than on the industry that benefits from the logging. I understand the importance of management based on forest health activities (including SBDMEAR), but feel that the road construction should be limited in general and not allowed in roadless areas.

Outdoor recreation is a large driver of our area's economy. I support the designation of more wilderness areas and the development of reasonable recreation opportunities in these and adjacent non-wilderness areas. The degradation of forests will negatively impact recreation and subsequent economic growth.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the GMUG forest plan revisions. Sincerely, Tom Grant