

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/7/2017 4:23:46 PM

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Comments: GMUG Draft Assessment Comments

Dear GMUG Planning Team,

[Slow down. More assessment and more public outreach is needed.

The Assessment is missing essential maps. Recreation must be depicted spatially using maps and GIS data. Many advanced spatial resources are available from the recreation community (MTB Project, Mountain Project, Outdoor Alliance's GIS lab, etc). These should be used to add to the gaps in the forests' map data.

The inventory of recreation assets is incomplete. The full scope and importance of dispersed recreation is not fully captured in the Recreation report. Some of the most iconic recreation destinations in the country are located within the GMUG. The description of outdoor recreation resources in the report is not commensurate with the importance of these areas to users and local communities.

Outdoor recreation's significant contribution to local communities is undervalued. Outdoor Recreation contributes \$28 billion dollars in direct spending and supports 220 thousand jobs in Colorado. The trail systems in Mesa County alone generate \$12.5 million in economic activity in the county. In The Benefits to People report's estimate of recreation activity generating a combined \$32.2 million in labor income across all the forests woefully under-represents the economic importance of recreation to the local communities.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lynn Nichols

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