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Comments: GMUG Forest Plan - Assessment Comments

Dear GMUG Forest Planning Team:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments during the assessment phase of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forest plan revision process. As an avid outdoor enthusiast, I enjoy recreating on the GMUG and hope to preserve opportunities for human-powered backcountry travel, solitude, challenge and exploration throughout the National Forest.

In reviewing the Recreation Assessment, I was disappointed to see this important topic receive a fairly cursory overview with limited detail included in the assessment. The narrative was incomplete without maps to portray the recreation amenities, trails, high-use areas and visitor use data.

I am concerned about a proposed bike trail between Gunnison and Crested Butte. I'm not sure if it's still on the table but if it is, habitat protection is paramount. A roadside trail or bike lane might be a better option. Mt. biking and all motorized use should never be allowed to degrade habitat. User built trails must be closed and enforced. Please educate these user groups to respect closures, habitat, and their impact on all natural resources.

I hope you will consider updating the information in your assessment report to provide a more detailed picture of Recreation on the GMUG forest prior to the scoping period.

Sincerely,

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