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GMUG Forest Planning
Gunnison Ranger District
216 N. Colorado
Gunnison, CO 81230

Dear Forest Plan Revision Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the GMUG planning process. The GMUG is a unique and special forest. It provides a variety of terrain for the public to enjoy.

The current use on the GMUG is increasing each year and not necessarily for the good. There seems to be a desire to develop as much of the forest as possible, without considering the degradation that is currently taking place from many different user groups.

Management of the GMUG should be focused on Multiple Use. All users should have the opportunity to enjoy the experience they are looking for. With the current growth of recreation in the GMUG and the resource damage that is taking place it is time for some changes.

The conflicts between different user groups will continue to grow if the USFS is not proactive in addressing these concerns. The improvement of facilities is important moving forward. There is a need for different trail designation for different user groups. With the current degradation of many of the trails and no funding for trail maintenance how will the USFS deal with this? Many trails are nearly impassable for hikers and horseback riders because of the motorized and bicycle use. In the Draft Assessment it states that some user groups desire more trails for their use. However the current amount of trails within the GMUG should be sufficient for all user groups.

Currently the amount of organized events in the Crested Butte area in the summer months seems to be excessive. There is an event every single weekend. These events create conflicts with the general public, grazing permittees, outfitter and guide permittees. Some of these events are so large the amount of day use exceeds what the current outfitter and guide is permitted for, for this area. Moving forward hopefully the USFS will take a closer look at the impacts of these events on the Forest and other users. Multiple use needs to occur on the forest but there needs to be more scrutiny with the resource damage that comes with the large events.

As the Forest Plan moves forward it is imperative that multiple use be a main priority, along with sustainable use that protects the natural resources within the GMUG. This includes recreation, logging, mining, grazing, and other uses that are acceptable. With the 80% decline in the amount of grazing permittees since 1980 and a positive direction in range trend, this would lead one to believe that grazing is a sustainable use of the Forest and

one I support.

There seems to be one component of the Assessment that was left out. There is not much discussion about wildlife. With the growing recreation pressure how does this affect wildlife? There should be more emphasis on wildlife and the natural resource; as opposed to how much more of the Forest we can develop. The current pressure does affect wildlife, it creates more landowner wildlife conflicts. Many areas of the Gunnison Basin are experiencing this. The creation of any new trails is a taking of our natural resource. If there is a need to reroute a trail or create new trails there should be a 2 to 1 ratio of decommission to new route or reroute.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Forest Planning.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Guerrieri