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Comments: The Trust for Land Restoration has reviewed the November 2017 DRAFT GMUG Forest Management Plan with particular interest in the Cultural and Historic Resources section and would like to make the following comments to that part of the plan:

Overall we think the plan itself as it relates to Cultural and Historic Resources within the GMUG appropriately addresses a systematic approach to categorizing and keeping track of important remnants of human history within the forest boundaries. We were pleased to read and learn of the Priority Assets inventory that is in addition to the National Register of Historic Places. We look forward to working with GMUG staff to suggest other sites within the Ouray and Norwood Ranger Districts that we think appropriate for adding to the list.

Likewise we took note of the mention that the Red Mountain Mining District might be eligible for Special Interest Area (SIA) designation. We heartily agree, and offer our services as a non-profit working in the San Juan Mountains, in close cooperation with the Ouray County Historical Society, to protect and conserve historic landscapes and critical habitat to assist with any effort to increase protection of historic assets in our part of the GMUG, adding that the mining districts adjacent to the Red Mountain Mining District are equally as rich in context and deserving of special attention.

Al the above said, any plan is only as good as the staff time and financial resources put into it. The track record overall in the Ouray District over the last 20 years is actually pretty good, but we and our partners at the Ouray County Historical Society have observed over the last three or four years that the one staff person assigned to cultural resources in the Ouray District, supported by the one staff archeologist at the Forest Supervisor's Office level have been limited in their effectiveness by lack of a budget beyond their salaries to accomplish very much. Not very many years ago, the GMUG contributed not only staff time but occasionally modest amounts of much-needed seed funding and cost-share match to a variety of historic preservation projects directly spent of historic resources located on GMUG -managed property. For whatever reasons, we've been disappointed to not have the Forest as a contributing financial partner the last few years, and ask that whatever we can do to help reverse that trend be allowed. There is huge benefit to spending just a little money to stabilize historic remnants that connect our present with our past,into the future, for those of us here now, and for the generations to come.

thank you

Pat Willits