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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS officials, I just wanted to comment the GMUG forest plans for Colorado. Here's some thoughts about the GMUG Assessment:

The assessment should allow for a longer comment period; 30 days, including Thanksgiving, is hardly enough for a reasonable public comment period; it feels as if you really don't want the public's opinions when the comment period is so short.

Another thing is the assessment does not contain all the maps necessary to show the influence of recreation using maps and GIS. This also includes the ROS or Recreation Opportunity Spectrum. Resources from: MTB Project, Mountain Project, Trail Forks, American Whitewater's National Whitewater Inventory, Outdoor Alliance's recreation GIS repository should all be incorporated into the forests' map data to fairly represent the important influence of non-motorized recreation.

In many ways the inventory of recreation is not well represented in the recreation report. The importance of non motorized recreational opportunities for local recreation on the national forests cannot be overstated: mountain biking, fishing, cross country skiing in the Grand Mesa national forest; hiking the Big & Little Dominguez canyons in the Uncompahgre national forest are worthy of our protection from over grazing, mining activities and any other motorized recreational uses that would limit or degrade these special recreational areas.

Colorado's recreation industry generates more than \$28 billion dollars in direct spending, contributing to 220,000 jobs in our state. Mesa county trails where I live, generate more than \$13 million in economic revenue. Recreation to local communities generates a combined \$33 million over all three national forests-a fact that is under-represented in the GMUG Assessment.

I would also recommend that the USFS in all three national forests consult American Whitewater's National Whitewater Inventory when you are creating your list of eligible rivers for Wild and Scenic Designation. I look forward to being engaged in this Wild & Scenic stream designation process among the GMUG forest area when it begins.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on the Grand Mesa, Uncomphagre, Gunnision National Forest Assessment Plan!

Sincerely,  
Charles Szasz