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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear friends at the National Forest.

With this comment, I am commenting on the Draft Forest Assessment: Recreation.

1. I fully support your comments about climate change on page 43 of the Recreation Assessment, and elsewhere in the assessments. Despite what higher-ups in Washington are saying, or not saying, the climate is changing and since the economy near me in Crested Butte, is based on snow during half of the year, we better be paying attention to what the climate will be for the next 20 years.

2. in regards to Extreme Weather Events and Infrastructure on page 43 of the Recreation Assessment, and as a member of the Coal Creek Watershed Coalition (CCWC), in the Crested Butte area, I would like to encourage the GMUG Forest to continue working with the CCWC to help stabilize hillsides above the Kebler Pass Road. We have done some work on this topic but much more could be done to stabilize the relatively bare hillsides above and below the Kebler Pass Road which will also lead to less sedimentation in Coal Creek.

3. On page 45 there is a quick reference to invasive plant species. I have been working with the Crested Butte Land Trust and the Town of Crested Butte on this subject for 20 years. We are losing the battle here but the Forest is generally, in pretty good shape, with the exception of the lower portion of the Kebler Pass Road. Scentless Chamomile is on both sides of the road, for the first couple miles above Crested Butte. I pull them there but there is more than I can handle. I concentrate my efforts on Peanut Mine, on private Land Trust property and that is about all one person can affect. That topic needs more people and money.

4. On page 46. there is discussion about special events bringing people to towns and then to the National Forest. I also read today that the Town of Crested Butte will be a partner with the GMUG on this Forest Plan. Maybe, the Towns should be sharing some of the income (sales tax) associated with these special events, with the GMUG to provide services on the Forest during the events.

5. On page 46. you talk about Social Sustainability and crowding at certain sites. I will no longer go to Judd Falls or West Maroon Pass because the parking for these places is totally inadequate. (I recognize the parking for West Maroon Pass is on the White River Forest, but GMUG needs to take some responsibility for this site because the only driving access is through the GMUG.) The number of people on the trails is not too bad.

6. I fully support: "Further research and study of race/ethnicity and the dynamics and issues affecting recreation by underserved groups is needed." on page 47.

7. I fully support that camping should be prohibited within 100 feet of streams and water bodies, including wetlands and riparian areas.

8. I support all the recommendations in Chapter 9. "Potential need for Change of the Forest Plan to Respond to Recreation Issues."