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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Forest Management Plan Revision Team,

I am writing to you today to submit my comments on the scoping for the GMUG Resource Management Plan. As an environmental educator, recreationist, and Colorado native, I care deeply about the management of our National Forests and public lands. These are our unique natural resources, and your management of them should be geared toward saving these resources for the enjoyment of future generations.

As such, I believe that the Resource Management Plan developed for the GMUG should identify and protect all the lands that qualify for protection as Wilderness. These lands have been mapped by the conservation community, and Rocky Mountain Wild. They have also been submitted as the Citizens' Wilderness and Designations Proposal.

Additionally, the plan must make it a priority to protect habitat for at-risk plants and animals. Science has shown that we are in the midst of the 6th mass extinction, and that species are disappearing at a rate of 100 times faster than last century. Our best chance of curbing this extinction crisis is to protect the habitats that species need to survive today, and into the future. Of special concern in this Resource Management Plan would be habitat for Gunnison sage-grouse, white-tailed prairie dog, river otters, and the cushion bladderpod (OK, I don't know much about the bladderpod, but don't you want your grandchildren to have the opportunity to say that word).

Finally, I have had many opportunities to recreate in the GMUG. From snowshoeing near Crested Butte to photography on the Grand Mesa, this forest offers so many quiet recreation opportunities that we need to protect. The RMP should limit uses in areas so that these quiet recreation opportunities can be preserved.

Thank you for your time.