

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/25/2018 10:02:43 PM

First name: Matthew

Last name: Sandler

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Forest Management Revision Team,

I am submitting these scoping comments because I care about our national forests. There are many things I care about that include protecting the natural state of our forests (which I know is a difficult balance to strike - especially in an age of beetle infestation, forest fires, and other destructive uses), allowing for recreational opportunities (I am an avid skier [both in bounds and out of bounds], a rock climber, mountain biker, camper, hiker) and still providing opportunities for resource extraction (which I know you will do, but feel is unnecessary in this day and age, when we should be shifting to renewable energy, alternative wood materials, and limited hunting only when necessary to control populations - which we should be controlling through re-introducing predator species). I hope that you have the autonomy to make a balanced and responsible decision for this forest, but fear based on the administration you are working under that your hands will be tied and the health of our forest will be jeopardized. I am the staff attorney for an organization called Rocky Mountain Wild. These comments are not submitted on behalf of Rocky Mountain Wild. I know our organization will file extensive comments that will preserve issues to exhaust remedies, establish standing, and ensure my interests are advocated and defended. I have great confidence in the amazing conservation organizations in Colorado that I know will fight till the end to protect our forests, species, and natural areas. So this is my chance to submit a personal rant. You can do the right thing. Let's err on the side of protection. This Plan has not been revised since 1983. I was 5 years old. Now I am 40. What will the GMUG be experiencing in another 35 years. Let's really consider what you are planning for. Global warming, increased motor vehicle use, exploding populations, more fires, infestations, disease, draught, and many currently unknown impacts. The status quo is not sustainable. Let's set the floor low enough to be able to withstand all that the future has to hold. Analyze the species and the habitat they will need to expand and migrate to. Analyze water usage and ensure that massive droughts can be managed. Ski areas don't need to continue to expand - we are entering an age where special use permit areas must be solidified (or shrunk). Analyze an alternative that gives nature what it deserves. Analyze an alternative that gives it all away. I'm hopeful that erring on the side of nature is the obvious choice. Be brave! Dare to do the right thing. Protect Wilderness. Protect the bladderpod (because it may contain the cure for cancer), protect the roundtail chub (because even chubs need some love), don't let people shoot prairie dogs (because that's just sick). As an attorney, I know the vulnerabilities inherent in the NEPA and ESA processes. I trust this administration will attempt to rush this revision to completion. I dare you to do this right, make it defensible, strike an honest balance, and win in Court. But thoughtfulness and lawfulness doesn't seem to be prevalent these days. Good luck.

Matthew Sandler