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Organization: Rocky Mountain Wild

Title: Volunteer/Grad Student

Comments: Dear Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison Forest Plan Revision Team,

I moved to Colorado because it is so beautiful, and I am passionate about protecting the plants and animals here. I moved from here from Northern Illinois, where there is not much opportunity left to protect undeveloped land, wilderness, and biodiversity. I think it is really important to protect recommended wilderness areas as well as implement landscape-level conservation in order to protect biodiversity here in Colorado. Also, I think it is really important to protect recommended wilderness areas before more and more people move to Colorado and before the Western Slope experiences population growth similar to the Front Range. Increasing the amount of protected wilderness and landscape-level conservation will allow plants and animals more opportunity to adapt to human population growth as well as the unknown consequences of rapid climate change. This may be especially important near Telluride, and therefore I recommend protecting the following recommended wilderness areas: Last Dollar, Liberty Bell, Whitehouse Mountain (East), Hayden Mountain, East Beaver Creek, Bear Creek, Matterhorn, Crystal Peak, and Cataract. This will also help connect already protected areas and improve landscape-level conservation.

Brad Schrom