

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/9/2018 11:01:42 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Scoping Comment

Dear Supervisor Armentrout and the GMUG planning team:

Please accept this scoping comment on my behalf as an activist with Conservation Colorado, an environmental advocacy organization with over 36,000 members in all parts of Colorado.

It is critical to Colorado's outdoors economy, to the life style expected by the people who live in this state and to the many visitors from all over the world that our natural resources be protected. GMUG forest plan revision must be prioritize to conserve the forest. Changing climate will require adaptive measures to increase the forest's resiliency, but the forest itself is an important carbon sink, and the climate change impacts and benefits of the forest should be in the plan.

Recreation is an important value on the forest. Please assure that there is a spectrum of sustainable recreational opportunity in the forest and that human-powered recreational forms receive attention. Please plan for recreation in ways that reflect impacts of recreation on wildlife.

Many communities, as well as the great Gunnison and Colorado River systems have their headwaters in the GMUG. Please take care in the plan to safeguard municipal watershed areas, like Kannah Creek on Grand Mesa. In general, please take heightened care of headwaters areas of the forest.

As a wilderness ranger with Friends of Wilderness in Steamboat, I understand first hand the value of the wilderness to locals and visitors from around the world. The forest service should elevate deserving wild lands to Recommended Wilderness status. It is obvious from the people I meet on the trails, how much the public values conservation of wilderness lands. The GMUG possesses some exemplary Wilderness areas that should receive the highest level of protection such as Kelso Mesa, lands proposed for wilderness in the San Juan Mountains wilderness, and many others as reflected in the conservation community's recommended wilderness proposal.

Thanks for the opportunity to add my voice to the many people in Colorado who value the GMUG, and thank you for your thoughtful stewardship of our public lands!

Sincerely,

Sue Mosher

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