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Comments: Scoping Comment

Dear Supervisor Armentrout and the GMUG planning team:

Please accept this scoping comment on my behalf as an environmental activist citizen of Colorado.

The GMUG forest plan revision is an important moment to prioritize conservation of the forest. A 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.

Regarding recreation in the forest, the importance of any recreation allowed in these areas must create zero impact on these lands, for example, trail hiking, nature photography, bird watching.. Please assure that the any recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, rock climbing are sustainable and have no detrimental effects on the ecosystems present. It is crucial to assure that human-powered recreational vehicles such as snowmobiles be banned from any and all areas sensitive for wildlife species, and that the dangers of carbon emissions and noise pollution be examined in the plan and that these dangers be protected against.n. Please plan for recreation in ways that protect wildlife and natural habitats even more fully than they are protected now.

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.

Finally, the forest service should elevate all wild lands to Recommended Wilderness status and protect them permanently. The public values conservation of wilderness lands, and the GMUG possesses some exemplary ones including Kelso Mesa, lands proposed for wilderness in the San Juan Mountains wilderness, and many others.

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

Sincerely,

Sandra Fox
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