

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/11/2018 12:56:37 AM

First name: Alan

Last name: Hirsch

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.

The GMUG forest plan revision is an important moment to prioritize conservation on 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.

In short, the forest areas, the Wilderness areas, and the watersheds in the GMUG must all be protected to preserve the water quality in the Colorado River System, the carbon sink that is in the trees and other vegetation on the land, the fauna that lives in these habitats, and the quiet recreation opportunities offered by the natural region.

Recreation is an important value on the forest. Please assure that there is a spectrum of sustainable recreational opportunity on 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.

Finally, the forest service should elevate deserving wild lands to Recommended Wilderness status. 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 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,

Alan Hirsch
PO BOX 1460
WESTCLIFFE, CO 81252-1460