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Dear Forest Service team,

Thank you once again for offering the public an opportunity to comment on a Forest Plan that will affect our future and the future of the wild lands that surround and sustain us.

As an ardent supporter and advocate for Wilderness, it is only natural that I would support the addition of any and all lands proposed for Wilderness through this forest planning process. That includes support for the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative (GPLI) and the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal. While I am not familiar with each and every acre included in these proposals, I feel certain that they have been thoroughly examined for their Wilderness characteristics and found to be worthy of this protective designation.

The GPLI has evolved over several years into a well-accepted concept, with the buy-in of numerous diverse stakeholder groups and the community at-large. I feel well-represented by its recommendations, recognizing that Special Management Areas may not be Wilderness, but can still protect the majority of Wilderness qualities. Since the GPLI has worked to compromise with the varied interests, and reached consensus on the proposal, I hope the Forest Service follows suit, accepting the GPLI recommendations, several of which would expand existing Wilderness areas. These can only help to enhance and extend wildlife corridors, while keeping larger sections of habitat intact for myriad species.

The Citizens' Wilderness Proposal represents the efforts of numerous conservation groups. Its inclusions bring a thoroughly-researched, science-based proposal to assist the Forest Service in creating a balanced Forest Plan, where solitude and wildlife can resist the incursions of any and all vehicular and extractive uses.

Please factor climate change into all your management decisions. Wilderness will be increasingly needed to combat the effects of climate change. Forests provide carbon sinks, hold water, maintain cool water temperatures, and provide refuge for species whose habitats are in jeopardy. For these reasons, I also support Wild & Scenic River designations wherever possible.

In the Crested Butte area where I live, I hope to see expanded Wilderness adjacent to the Oh-Be-Joyful valley (Raggeds Wilderness), Kebler Pass (West Elk Wilderness), and Deer Creek (Maroon Bells Wilderness). Actions that can be taken to mitigate impacts to the heavily-used areas in this region, erring on the side of protection, are crucial. Providing wildlife corridors in perpetuity between the Raggeds and West Elk, the Maroon Bells and Fossil Ridge, etc. will be of ultimate importance as future demands (human and climate) are made on wild areas. Wildlife will always need mobility as threats to habitat increase.

My personal proposed additions to Wilderness are: (1) bringing the Raggeds Wilderness boundary in Oh-Be-Joyful down the old road about a mile to the Slate River, to include BLM portions that are already closed to vehicles, and (2) beginning the Raggeds Wilderness boundary in Poverty Gulch at the point, just over a mile up the valley, where the stream crossing leads to an old, virtually impassable road to Baxter Basin and Daisy Pass. Signage is needed at the stream crossing with the goal of preventing unlawful biking over Daisy Pass into Democrat Basin and Oh-Be-Joyful, which are in Wilderness.

It is encouraging to see the Forest Service beginning to provide facilities at trailhead and dispersed campgrounds in the Crested Butte area. I hope this is an effort to be followed by designated campgrounds, so that the public

will have an increasing respect for the forest, particularly at our high elevations, where damage takes a long time to repair.

Thank you so much for taking the time to research and provide for a well-designated and well-managed national forest. I look forward to the results of all your planning.

Sincerely,
Sue Navy