

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/22/2018 11:11:41 PM

First name: Anon

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I urge management of the forest to protect plant and animal species and the natural habitats they need to survive. The GMUG forest complex in western Colorado hosts over 300 wildlife species, and many of them are at risk due to threats in and near the forests including from logging, oil and gas exploration and development, mining, non-native animals and plants, increasing recreation pressure, climate change, and home-building encroachment around the forest. Some of these vulnerable species include the Gunnison's prairie dog, river otter, Colorado River cutthroat trout, flammulated owl, boreal toad, western bumblebee, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and a variety of plants.

Help recover the Canada lynx. This cat is protected as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and depends on large, connected areas of spruce-fir forest. Threats to lynx include logging and recreation, especially snowmobiling.

Help recover the Gunnison Sage-grouse. The GMUG is a stronghold for this critically imperiled species. Oil and gas development, mining, livestock grazing, roads, and non-native plant encroachment threaten the bird's habitat.

Use a science-based approach for designating Species of Conservation Concern. These are species that are at risk of extirpation but not listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Forest Service should draw from Colorado's State Wildlife Action Plan and other science-based sources of conservation information to develop a comprehensive list of species that need special protections.

Support the Citizens' Wilderness and Designations Proposal. One of the best ways to protect wildlife and plants on our national forests is to designate special areas dedicated to conservation. The Proposal would provide important management direction for essential places on the forest for at-risk species.