

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/29/2018 3:06:08 AM

First name: Tony

Last name: Prendergast

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I think the scoping material is good. Going in this direction will lead to an improved Forest Plan.

I am a member of BHA and an outfitter who spends a lot of time on the GMUG especially near Crawford and West Elk Wilderness. I am glad to see a strong focus on wildlife habitat, ecosystem health, and hunting as a major form of recreation and a use of the Forest.

Recreation will become an increasing use of the forest so improved management of recreation and attention to trails and facilities will be more important than it has been in the past. But in doing so it will be more important than ever to manage recreation in ways that also preserve unfragmented wildlife habitat, especially in winter and shoulder season areas. Increased coordination with CPW will be critical. Also of great importance is managing and making available the grazing and water resources that keep ranches viable, which in turn provide winter habitat and open space for wildlife.

I also think management of 'Winter' recreation should be mentioned in scoping material, as this is often given short shrift and it is common practice to dismiss winter recreation impacts on the ecology. This constitutes a "need for change."

I think scoping materials should mention 'Special Management Areas' along with Wilderness and Roadless Areas in the section 'Natural Processes Dominate', or ' Backcountry'.

Thanks for the good work so far!

Tony