

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/29/2018 1:54:32 PM

First name: Mark

Last name: Meeks

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Tell the Forest Service to Protect Wildlife

May 29, 2018

GMUG Plan Revision Team

Dear Revision Team,

I am an advocate for conserving America's public lands. I urge the Forest Service to include strong protections for wildlife, wildlands, and water in the revised management plan for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison national forests. Ours is a changing world. Preservation is quite uncertain in our time. We are losing wild creatures around the world and must now work aware of these changing conditions. Fortunately our country has well established policies that can be applied and strengthened. Our forests are at the heart of the challenge.

Many at-risk species depend on our forests. They provide key habitat for the Canada lynx and Gunnison sage-grouse, which are both threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Canada lynx need large areas of connected habitat and safeguards from threats such as logging. Oil and gas development should be avoided in Gunnison sage-grouse habitat. Other vulnerable species that need strict management standards and guidelines include the river otter, Gunnison's prairie dog, American white pelican, bald eagle, boreal owl, northern goshawk, Colorado River cutthroat trout, other animals, and many plants.

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

I encourage the GMUG Plan Revision Team to develop and adopt a management plan alternative that maximizes conservation for the wildlife that depend on these forests and their habitat.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Meeks  
399 Blackbird Dr  
Bailey, CO 80421-2077  
(303) 816-1454  
mkenosha@aol.com

