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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Tell the Forest Service to Protect Wildlife

May 29, 2018

GMUG Plan Revision Team

Dear Revision Team,

I urge the Forest Service to include strong protections for wildlife, wild lands, and water in the revised management plan for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests.

Many at-risk species depend on these 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, as well as 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 ("CWP"). The SWP, if the Forest Service were to adopt it, 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 the CWP, which would maximize conservation for the wildlife that depend on these forests and their habitat.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jonathan Strong
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