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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Tell the Forest Service to Protect Wildlife

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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.

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, 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.

One of the things that makes the United States different and unique is our collective national commitment to preservation of our wild lands and wild animals that inhabit those lands. This is one of the many things that makes me proud to be an American. Even if I never personally visit these lands or see these animals, I want to know that they exist in our world and are thriving. This is part of our national identity.

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,

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