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First name: Michele Last name: Prokop Organization:

Title:

Comments: Tell the Forest Service to Protect Wildlife

May 29, 2018

**GMUG Plan Revision Team** 

Dear Revision Team,

I 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, Uncompangre, and Gunnison national forests.

Many at-risk species depend on these forests which provide important habitat for the Canada lynx and Gunnison sage-grouse both of which are threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Canada lynx need large areas of connected habitat and safeguards from logging threats. Oil and gas development must be avoided in Gunnison sage-grouse habitat. Other vulnerable species needing 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, and many other animals and plants.

The best ways to protect wildlife and plants in our national forests is designating special areas for conservation of these species. I completely support the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal which provides important management direction for essential places on the forest for the at-risk species.

I encourage the Grand Mesa, Uncompander and Gunnison 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, Michele Prokop 923 Delfield Dr. Bethel Park, PA 15102

Sincerely,

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