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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 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.

The loss of natural diversity will harm tourism and undermine responsible and sustainable stewardship of our forests and parks. The immense costs of the loss of dependable water and infrastructure services far outweigh the limited benefits of oil drilling. The gas industry is in a terminal decline as new energy resources replace extractive energy and there is no rationale for sustaining a dying industry at the cost of livelihoods and critical natural environments.

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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