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Comments: Thank you for reading my comments. I'm a fifth generation Colorado native with a deep love for this place especially wildlife and habitats. My comments are as follows:

Please include management of the forest to protect plant and animal species and the natural habitats they need to survive. They are interdependent.

With the incredible rapid human population growth in Colorado and the increase in oil and gas leases I would like you to recommend additional lands for Wilderness designation and to protect other areas as Special Interest Areas that focus on habitat protection. This type of protection will only be more difficult in the future so it's important to have this foresight.

I adamantly support two proposals that recommend specific areas for protection. I especially appreciate that these proposals were put together by diverse coalitions of conservation voices and local interest:

The Citizens' Wilderness and Designations Proposal

The Gunnison Public Lands Initiative Proposal

Because there is recreation and also more vandalism and lack of respect for wilderness I would like to see strong standards and guidelines are essential to maintain a healthy resilient forest

Please ensure that the plan includes strong protections for at-risk animals and plants including

Birds: American white pelican, bald eagle, burrowing owl, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, ferruginous hawk, gray vireo, Gunnison sage-grouse, greater sandhill crane, western purple martin (sage grouse habitat protection is crucial)

Fish: Colorado river cutthroat trout, roundtail chub

Mammals: kit fox, river otter

Plants: Cathedral Bluff meadow-rue, Colorado desert-parsley, cushion bladderpod Debeque milkvetch, Rocky Mountain thistle, Rollins' twinpod

Additionally, I would like to see recommendations for. Landscape-level conservation is critical as it allows the forest to adapt to changes

And finally, and perhaps most importantly, please ensure that the Forest Service disallow oil and gas development in places where development will harm the natural environment and interfere with recreation and scenery. For without this one point, it will be nearly impossible to fulfill all of the other aspects mentioned above.

Thank you sincerely for your work and considering our comments to protect important places in Colorado.

Madelaine DeVan