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Organization:

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Comments: Dear Sirs,

with regard to "Wilderness Designation" in the area discussed, The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest

The poor forest health on the GMUG is degrading all habitat for wildlife and addressing this issue can only be done with active management and treatment of these areas and such treatment must be prioritized in planning. Poor forest health is a major challenge to the recreational community as fallen trees must be removed and can create major safety concerns.

I also want to urge that Land managers always ask for communities to come together on issues and bring them a collaborative solution. Colorado did this decades ago on many of these Wilderness boundaries. We are asking that land managers not upset the consensus position that was brought to them decades ago regarding the management of many of these areas. Finally there should be no exclusionary corridors around the Continental Divide Trail or other National Trails System designated routes as this would be a violation of federal law, violate the CDT trail plan and could not be brought into compliance with multiple use planning requirements. Any planning efforts must comply with the best available science on whatever the management issue is in the area. Any citizen science or unpublished research must be viewed very critically by land managers.