

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/31/2018 1:07:03 PM

First name: Timothy

Last name: Szurgot

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service-

We spend over 300 days a year in the GMUG national forest. We live just outside of Crested Butte and head to the woods to recreate, hunt, fish and reconnect with our wild side. In this day and age of digital globalization the forest is an essential refuge for the betterment of the human psyche. The survival of our species requires a healthy forest where we can reconnect with the natural world.

We believe your roll is to protect the plants and animals of the forest. Oil and gas exploration should be kept to areas where impacts on water, scenery and recreation will not occur. Roadless areas should be kept roadless.

We support the efforts of the Citizens' Wilderness and Designations Proposal and the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative Proposal. These are excellent examples of groups who represent our feelings on how public lands should be managed.

Your plan must include strong protection for endangered animals like American white pelican, bald eagle, burrowing owl, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, ferruginous hawk, gray vireo, Gunnison sage-grouse, greater sandhill crane, western purple martin, Colorado river cutthroat trout, roundtail chub, kit fox and the river otter. Also protections for endangered plants Cathedral Bluff meadow-rue (*Thalictrum heliophilum*), Colorado desert-parsley (*Lomatium concinnum*), cushion bladderpod (*Physaria pulvinata*), Debeque milkvetch (*Astragalus debequaeus*), Rocky Mountain thistle (*Cirsium perplexans*) and Rollins' twinpod (*Physaria rollinsii*). By protecting these species you will keep other species from landing on the endangered species list.

We also believe more forest should be designated as wilderness areas. Creating more wilderness areas is the best way to assure it is there for future generations.

Sincerely,

Tim Szurgot