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Comments: Because I live closer to Grand Mesa and the Uncompahgre Plateau, most of my GMUG forest trips occur there. I am a hiker who is slowing down due to getting older so that now much of my experience in the outdoors is focused less on getting to some distant designation and more on paying careful attention to the flora and fauna. I am a member of the Colorado Native Plant Society so try to identify the blooming plants that I see as I walk along using my camera for photos and a field guide. While much of the forest that I travel through seems to be in a healthy state, I believe it is imperative that the new forest plan have provisions for maintaining good quality land health and that it also prepare for possible impacts to the vegetation and animal life due to climate change impacts. Even though I look for moose each time I go to Grand Mesa, I haven't seen one there yet. I do so want to have that experience at some point

Interesting views make hiking more appealing and pleasurable. While gaining a truly long distance view such as that from Craig Crest Trail or points along the Divide road are only occasionally possible, I feel they greatly enhance my experiences in the forest and must be preserved. Consequently it is important to me that distance vistas and views that cover a shorter distance are preserved whenever possible in the forest. As our communities grow air quality and pollution that will decrease long distance views will become a greater concern. The new GMUG forest plan should think ahead to put in place measures that will maintain the clean air we currently have.

Water in the form of flowing streams and lakes enhances and expands all of my GMUG experiences. Clean water is necessary for life - for all life not just human life. The Grand Mesa has over 300 lakes of varying sizes all of which hold water that make possible many forms of on the water recreating, and high quality fishing. Yet the more we humans use the forest lands, the more we impact and imperil the water quality. Grazing of cattle can also have detrimental impacts, but I have been pleased to see the use of electric fencing and rotation of the area herds of cattle can be used that is being practiced on many of the grazing allotments on Grand Mesa. I hope those practices and others that will ensure high water quality will be in place for all of the GMUG lands. I believe it is important to evaluate each of the many watersheds within the GMUG forest to see if there are factors that will negatively impact the water quality and to make any necessary modifications that might restore the water quality within the particular watershed. The forest can improve water quality or decrease it and must be managed for quality improvement.

I am in support of the Citizens Proposal as set out on gmugrevision.com for a number of reasons. The Proposal would set up a management structure to create ecosystems and watershed management following scientifically based ecological guidelines. It would foster the growth of diverse plant and animal communities while maintaining a system of multiple use within the forests. The Citizen Proposal parallels the guidance in the Forest planning rule so that lands areas that meet guidelines for different types of conservation management are given the needed designations to insure proper management over the time period of the GMUG forest plan.

Thank you for consideration of my thoughts related to the GMUG forest revision,

Sherry Schenk

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