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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr. Armentrout,

Thank you for extending the comment period for the GMUG Forest Plan Revision. I hike, fish, ski, Mt. bike and camp on the public lands of the Gunnison Country and they are the reasons for living here for the past 42 yrs.

The Gunnison National Forest is the place where I seek both recreational opportunities and also seek the solitude of quiet places to recharge and reflect.

We seem to be living a part of history where opinions have been highly politicized and folks have not come to the table with the thought of compromise as a strategy. The 'my way or no way' mentality is no way to build any kind of consensus and only perpetuates divisiveness. That is why I would encourage you to seriously consider the work done by the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative. Through their dedication to getting the various public land interests together, agreeing that through respectful discussions, that differing opinions can be worked through and an understanding can be agreed upon where there is 'no light between them'. GPLI and the working group's agreements and proposals meet the same desires that I have for the conservation and continued stewardship of our public lands. It's important to me that we cause no harm so that our lands will be preserved into the future for our children. The fact that the GPLI working group has vetted the opinions and comments from their greater memberships is another reason for a broad consensus.

I agree with their comments and conclusions and encourage you to include them in your final draft.

Thanks for listening

Rich Smith