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Comments: I am a supporter of the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative, and I sincerely hope the GMUG planning team considers the recommendations of the collaborative approach that the GPLI has taken to consider all users in it's proposed management prescriptions.

I believe a Special Management Area is a unique tool that needs to be taken advantage of as a progressive and proactive approach to today's impacts on public lands. SMA's can provide similar protections of Wilderness, but allow certain recreation opportunities that often follow historic access and use. I am in favor of the proposed Wilderness prescriptions proposed in the GPLI process, as they are indeed for specific needs in regards to Wildlife concerns, human impacts, and future protections. I support the proposed SMA prescriptions in the GPLI as I feel they are direct response to the needs of our Forest in today's age, and looking well into the future. We can have our cake and eat it too - recreation and land protection go hand in hand. One helps to serve the other.

I do not feel that the Granite Basin/Eccher Gulch area should be Wilderness as a small, local group is pushing hard in these final days of comment. Eccher Gulch is a historic trail that was recognized as 'mechanized' in the 2010 Travel Management plan. Mountain bikers take to Eccher Gulch each year to cut out logs and do trail maintenance. It is a means to connect with the Cement Creek and Spring Creek drainages and recreation amenities, and is a beloved trail for many local residents. Wilderness proposals have been suggested by taking the Eccher Gulch trail out of the proposed Wilderness, along with some of the northern boundary for snowmobile use. This whittling down of land protections, just to get Wilderness in a smaller acreage, and also to 'increase certain users property values', is an injustice to land protection in general. If an SMA would have the same protections and prescriptions as Wilderness in the Granite Basin area, but allow for certain recreation amenities, and cover more acreage and area with protection, than that is a better solution and more land protection. Not just Wilderness for the sake of Wilderness and certain local residents increased property values. This makes the most sense in so many areas of the Gunnison Ranger District, and I sincerely hope the GMUG planning team takes this and other proposed SMA's into consideration.

Sincerely, August Hasz