Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/2/2018 12:51:03 AM
First name: David
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Comments: Many thanks for all that all of you in the USFS do for OUR public lands. We are behind you and never want to see them privatized!!! Thank you for your service!!!

I live in Gunnison and most frequently recreate in the Gunnison National Forest.

Non motorized backcountry trails that connect communities, for example, Carbondale to Crested Butte; Paonia to Crested Butte; Gunnison to Crested Butte; will contribute to community economic development, public health and wellness and youth engagement. Please leave corridors intact and unrestricted that will allow for future non motorized trails to be developed that also allow for mountain biking, a critically important activity in the Gunnison Basin.

Each of these proposals has been discussed at length by the GPLI working group. Please read about each in the GPLI proposal.

Backcountry mountain biking is an integral part of this activity, along with front and middle country experiences. This statement from the Scoping document concerns me:

"Plan for increased trail development that concentrates uses in sustainable settings."

Backcountry trail development is anything but concentrated. Please consider expanding this statement to also include sustainable backcountry trail development that is not concentrated.

Another concerning statement is this one:

"Provide direction to maintain existing, relatively unfragmented big game habitat and associated hunting opportunities, and other wildlife habitat, in the context of increasing pressure from development, including recreational trails."

Please consider adding: "being careful, however, to avoid proposed nonmotorized backcounty trail corridors identified by local nonprofit organizations that connect communities."

Examples include the approved Crested Butte to Carbondale Trail, and the proposed trails that would connect Crested Butte with Gunnison and also Crested Butte with Paonia. Each of these proposals has been discussed at length by the GPLI working group.

Thanks again!