

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/2/2018 7:27:25 PM

First name: Ken

Last name: Goldsmith

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a frequent visitor to the GMUG National Forest I am submitting my comments on the Forest Plan revision.

I strongly urge the Forest Service to create a science-based conservation oriented forest plan that serves the needs of the local community and visitors to the forest for the next twenty years and beyond. You must manage the forest to protect plant and animal species and the natural habitats they need to survive. Landscape-level conservation is critical as it allows the forest to adapt to changes.

The best way to protect species and habitats is to recommend additional lands for Wilderness designation and to protect other areas as Special Interest Areas that focus on habitat protection. I strongly support the following two proposals that recommend specific areas for protection. These proposals were put together by diverse coalitions of conservation voices and local interest:

- The Citizens' Wilderness and Designations Proposal
- The Gunnison Public Lands Initiative Proposal

Strong standards and guidelines are essential to maintain a healthy resilient forest. The plan must include strong protections for at-risk animals and plants including:

- Birds: American white pelican, bald eagle, burrowing owl, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, ferruginous hawk, gray vireo, Gunnison sage-grouse, greater sandhill crane, western purple martin
- Fish: Colorado river cutthroat trout, roundtail chub
- Mammals: kit fox, river otter
- 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*), Rollins' twinpod (*Physaria rollinsii*)

Finally, the Forest Service should disallow oil and gas development in places where development will harm the natural environment and interfere with recreation and scenery.

I strongly urge you to incorporate all of these recommendations in the final GMUG Forest Plan. Thank you.