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Organization:

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Comments: Tell the Forest Service to Protect Wildlife

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GMUG Plan Revision Team

Dear Revision Team,

As a citizen who cares greatly for our state's incredible and diverse wildlife, I am writing you today to ask you to conserve America's public lands here in Colorado. Specifically, I urge the Forest Service to include strong protections for wildlife, wildlands, and water in the revised management plan for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison national forests.

The GMUG forest complex in western Colorado hosts over 300 wildlife species, and many of them are at risk due to threats in and near the forests including from logging, oil and gas exploration and development, mining, non-native animals and plants, increasing recreation pressure, climate change, and home-building encroachment around the forest. Some of these vulnerable species include the Gunnison's prairie dog, river otter, Colorado River cutthroat trout, flammulated owl, boreal toad, western bumblebee, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and a variety of plants

One of the best ways to protect wildlife and plants in our national forests is to use a science-based approach for designating Species of Conservation Concern. These are species that are at risk of extirpation but not listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Forest Service should draw from Colorado's State Wildlife Action Plan and other science-based sources of conservation information to develop a comprehensive list of species that need special protections.

I encourage the GMUG Plan Revision Team to develop and adopt a management plan alternative that maximizes conservation for the wildlife that depend on these forests and their habitat.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ms. Caitlin Cattelino

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