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Comments: GMUG Forest Plan Revision Scoping Comments

Hello,

I submitted comments on the GMUG Draft Assessments back in December representing the Telluride Nordic Association. I have read the Forest Plan Revision Scoping document and offer the following additional (or repeated) comments:

1. We very much support the proposal to "Provide Strategic, Adaptive Direction" under Key Needs for Change. I assume (and hope) the intent here is to recognize the need for flexibility and adaptive direction in management policies. Currently, forest managers are hamstrung dealing with issues based on policies which too often are long outdated and irrelevant to current circumstances.

As a case in point, Telluride Nordic Association has been unable to achieve certain goals for management of winter Nordic trails due to the limitations of TNA's current Special Use Permit. Current USFS policy does not allow us to manage conflicting uses on our groomed trails - which creates problems (and safety concerns) for all users. So too, existing policies regarding facilities whether user provided or USFS owned bar provision of basic services such as restrooms. Hopefully "Strategic, Adaptive Direction" will allow some flexibility for TNA's management of winter trail uses that does not necessitate conversion to a (currently unrealistic) ski area permit.

2. We support recognition of recreation as driver and major consideration when Forest Plan desired conditions are developed.

3. We support use of best available science with regard to management of lynx habitat. Specifically, we support management direction that recognizes the science of the 2013 Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy.

4. We support creation of a Plan that is accessible, transparent and useful. Too often under the existing plan the process and steps required for approval of a given use are vague or non-existent.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Bill de Alva

Telluride Nordic Association