

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/22/2019 12:36:32 PM

First name: Aron

Last name: Ralston

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a local Coloradoan and recreational visitor to the GMUG National Forests, I am writing to urge the Forest Service to improve the Working Draft of the Forest Plan to prioritize conservation and emphasize science-based management.

The Forest Plan needs to include more standards for the protection of important resources, e.g. mandatory limits on action. Similarly, the Forest Plan should prohibit timber harvesting in lynx habitat, and the guidelines for protecting deer, elk, and bighorn sheep when they are on birthing grounds and winter range need to be mandatory, not voluntary.

As well, please increase the areas recommended for wilderness beyond the San Juan Mountains to include all other areas that exhibit wilderness characteristics. I strongly support new wilderness areas, especially those in the Community Conservation Proposal.

I appreciate that the Forest Plan proposes to establish conservation watershed networks to protect watersheds and sensitive species like trout and boreal toad. At the same time, there need to be details and mandates on how these networks would be applied and maintained.

Thank you for accepting my comments.