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Comments: Arkansas Valley Audubon Society has 500+ members who recreate and spend considerable amounts of money in the Gunnison, Uncompahgre, and Grand Mesa forest areas. We are concerned that the draft plan indicates that forest uses are going to be prioritized over ecological sustainability and plant and animal diversity. Although "public enjoyment" and "commodity use and community connections" are important. They are not the only forest uses. Habitat and species conservation should have a priority placement in the plan.

It also appears that the Planning Rule provides protection for water resources, restoring land and water ecosystems, and providing ecological conditions to support the diversity of plant and animal communities, while providing for ecosystem services and multiple uses. (77 Fed Reg. 21163)

In keeping with this Rule, any and all plans should/must ensure that forest restoration, conservation, watershed protection, and species and habitat conservation receive the same priority as "forest uses."

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.