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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Planners,

I am submitting this addition to the hand-written comments I submitted previously.

For whatever reason, the draft Forest Plan does not include more wilderness area designations, particularly in Gunnison County, where years of collaborative stakeholder efforts produced a well-thought-out plan, called the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative (GPLI), whose recommendations were not followed. If such a community/public effort, with buy-in from all involved, is not included in forest planning, then what is the incentive for the public to come to consensus on any future public lands issues? Why would federal land managers reject the public's input in this way?

I encourage you to take a closer look at GPLI, as well as at the Community Conservation Proposal, which offers sound science and thoughtful reasoning for designating more wilderness areas on the GMUG.

As to other parts of the draft plan, I would like to see stronger, more definitive language in terms of standards and mandates for forest protection, wildlife, Gunnison sage-grouse (where they exist on forest land), and waters that the Forest Service manages. If this is not done now, then we will have lost too many valuable, irreplaceable resources by the time the next forest plan is written.

Oil and gas extraction present numerous causes for concern. They are, first and foremost, a contributor to climate change, and need to be controlled and/or curtailed. The proliferation of these hazardous industries runs counter to the immediate need to thwart climate change, by reversing its impacts, not exacerbating them. I urge you to put more stringent regulations in place for these generally detrimental practices in order to safeguard our forests, our air and water.

I realize the politics of the situation, but we, the public, need you, the Forest Service, to stand for the very protections that we could lose forever if this plan is not amended in favor of our natural landscapes, waters and wildlife. Not only are sensitive creatures like the high-altitude pika at stake, but all forms of flora and fauna, as climate predictions demand we act now! Please think of posterity and the legacy we need to leave, while we still can.

Thank you for adding more wilderness and strengthening your final Forest Plan.

Sue Navy

Crested Butte