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Comments: July 29, 2019

RE: GMUG Working Draft

Dear Planning Team,

Thanks for the chance to comment at this stage. Below are a few general thoughts on the draft:

At p 14, the connectivity discussion is fine. This is one of the most important parts of the plan and cannot be emphasized enough. Core areas and connectivity between them, especially at lower and mid elevations has to be given priority, not just be the results of leftovers from other uses.

P15, snags and down woody debris are important. Larger diameter snags are needed for larger woodpeckers such as Northern Flickers and Hairy woodpeckers, which create cavities for other species. Ponderosa snags deserve special mention since they persist for so long after dying.

P 15, old growth trees in all hab types/ species are disproportionately important for cavity nesting birds, other birds, and other wildlife.

P 25 & 26, Specs 06 regarding connectivity and 07 regarding disturbances to raptors and migratory birds is important. On p26, spec 11 & 12 regarding bats and spec 13 on bats and other cavity dwellers is critical.

P 27, big game is important for local economies and is totally dependent on connectivity along less roaded areas, running attitudinally across different veg types. This same connectivity benefits other species and can help vegetation creep uphill with climate change.

Species of conservation concern have been discussed in previous comment periods and their habitat needs to be managed to maintain their viability.

P 59, I thought Special Interest Areas previously included the Purple Martin Important Bird Area, which I strongly support. Now it looks like wildlife is not considered for SIAs. This is disappointing and looks like a part of the plan that favors industry over the less damaging, more sustainable multiple uses.

P 61, Flattops Wildlife Management Area sounds good, and that area is very deserving, especially since it has a history of a similar designation. To be effective for long term viability of deer and elk it needs some conserved connectivity to lower elevation on several sides, such as Muddy and Buzzard Creeks. Again, we are far behind in saving middle and lower elevation habitat.

It is disappointing that unsustainable logging seems to be favored over other uses in the draft. This is to the detriment of all other uses. Logging in quality lynx habitat should not occur. Salvage logging in general doesn't work well.

Overall, I think the plan is slanted too much toward the industrial old economy at the expense of the modern day real life economic needs. We need to consider future climate conditions and future economic opportunities in tourism, wildlife, scenery, and clean air and water, the their positive effects of west slope residents' quality of life.

Thanks,

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