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Organization:

Title:

Comments: GMUG Draft Plan

Dear GMUG Forest Planning Team:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Working Draft of the GMUG Forest Plan.

I am a 15+ year Colorado resident and I have spent significant time in the GMUG forest while living in Crested Butte. I am an avid hiker and I prioritize non-motorized trails and wilderness areas where bikes are not allowed.

Having reviewed the draft plan, I feel that the direction for protection of important resources is weak, and in some cases non-existent. Please include more standards, including mandatory limits on action.

I am very disappointed that there is almost no land recommended for wilderness in the draft plan (it seems that only 22,400 acres across the entire forest are designated). I strongly support new wilderness areas, including those in the Community Conservation Proposal and Gunnison Public Lands Initiative.

I appreciate that the draft plan contains needed standards for dispersed camping and for responsive management actions in day-use areas. This is a positive step towards better management of recreation impacts and we are hopeful that sites damaged by heavy dispersed use may be rehabilitated.

Thank you for your efforts with this draft plan. I hope you will consider my suggestions for improvement.

Sincerely,

Dorian Merrill

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