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First name: Richard

Last name: Maes

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest Plan Revision

Dear GMUG National Forest Planning Team:

Thank you for releasing a working draft of the GMUG forest plan to the public and seeking feedback on it. I care about the future of western Colorado's public lands, rivers, and wildlife. It is important to me that the U.S. Forest Service responsibly balance development and conservation across the GMUG planning area.

Please have the USFS consider additional areas proposed for recommended wilderness by local conservation and recreation groups besides the 22,400 acres to be analyzed for recommended wilderness. This includes the Kelso Mesa the upper North Fork Valley's Electric Mountain, and proposed additions to the Uncompahgre Wilderness outside of Ouray.

USFS should include Special Interest Areas (SIAs) for outdoor recreation, watersheds critical to local communities and moving forward with the GMUG planning process, I encourage the USFS to protect all rivers that qualify as eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation.

Please include management direction for protecting important forest resources as well USFS to identify more plan components, such as mandatory standards, for protecting the values that make the GMUG such a special place.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the GMUG working draft.

Sincerely,

Richard Maes

Denver, Colorado 80247