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Comments: COMMENTS FOR THE GMUG WORKING DRAFT :

Recommended Wilderness - MA 1.2 (RECWLD)

The GMUG Working Draft only recommends 22,400 acres across the entire GMUG area for wilderness, ignoring tens of thousands of acres recommended by the GMUG in 2006 in the last public revision process, as well as endeavors such as the Community Conservation Proposal. I would like to see the recommended Wilderness areas proposed by the Community Conservation Proposal included in the draft EIS.

Wildlife Management Area - MA 3.2 (WLDF) and Watersheds

I have concerns that the GMUG Working Draft has added no new Wildlife Management Areas in the North Fork Valley that hold incredible scenic, wildlife, and wilderness values. I enjoy seeing deer, elk, marmots, ground squirrels and other wildlife while in the forest. I also want to see and hear the birds. We also need these Wildlife Management Areas to foster connectivity within the North Fork Valley watershed. Please include additional Management Area designations as proposed in the Community Conservation Proposal, specifically in the North Fork region, in the Draft EIS.

We also need more Wildlife Management Areas to protect critical wildlife habitat and range, as well as recreation opportunities, in Game Units 411, 52, 521, and 54, which are major economic drivers for the North Fork community. I also want to see specific guidelines for managing these areas specifically for wildlife, not just for trail densities.

I am greatly concerned that the GMUG Working Draft allows for timber harvest in high-probably Canada Lynx use areas, which cannot be allowed, and seems to contradict its desired condition for the species.

Timber

The GMUG Working Draft says there are 971,000 acres that are suitable for timber, but these acres are not really suitable because the Working Draft includes areas with above 40% slopes with unstable soils and areas previously cut for timber within the last five years. This means more stress on the areas that are actually suitable for timber.

Recreation

I hike every week Spring through Fall in most of these areas. I enjoy the solitude of places where I won't hear the sounds of cars, trucks and ATVs. I see the need for more primitive recreational areas, especially in the Stevens Gulch area near Electric Mountain and Chalk Mountain.

Thank you for taking the time to include the High Use Recreation Management Area within the GMUG Working Draft. However, I feel that Kebler Pass receives enough daily use to be included as a priority area. Also, the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum for the Summer and Winter range in the North Fork Valley should be changed to manage more for non-motorized primitive recreation throughout the Forests, due to the impacts that motorized recreation has on the landscape such as soil loss, vegetation disturbance, and more widespread effects on wildlife.