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Comments: GMUG Forest Plan Working Draft Comments

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I urge the USFS to consider including the Community Conservation Proposal as its preferred alternative in its Draft Forest Management Plan. The Community Conservation Proposal includes protections for wildlife, recreation, wilderness-quality lands, air, and water. It would preserve scenic viewsheds that local communities and economies depend upon. I have a vision for the future that embraces our natural resources instead of exploiting them, and I recommend the USFS consider that when drafting a Forest Management Plan. CommentsI recently moved back to Colorado. I graduated high school from Summit County High and I graduated from Colorado State University. I have lived in Craig, CO and Durango, CO. Having recently moved to the North Fork Valley, I recognize that there is something special in this region of the state. The beauty of the mountains, the accessibility of a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, and the prominence of fresh, organic produce and meats set this area apart. I value healthy, intact ecosystems, abundant wildlife, clean water, opportunities for outdoor recreation, and solitude. I would like public lands in the North Fork Valley to be managed in such a way as to maximize the values. This would mean no oil and gas exploration or development, and limited timber harvesting and when timber harvesting is necessary, it should be selective and improve overall ecosystem health. This means no new road, and a maximizing of wilderness lands. I value wilderness and would like to see wilderness areas maximized as a way of protecting ecosystems and protecting wildlife. When I arrived in teh North Fork Valley one of the greatest experiences was taking my two children ages 10 and 8 into the forest where they could explore aspen stands for the first time. Please, manage our national forests so that my children can also bring their children to enjoy the beauty and natural diversity of our forest lands,ConclusionIn conclusion, I want to thank the GMUG Forest Planning team for releasing a Working Draft of the Forest Plan revision, however some changes are needed. Most importantly, more management area protections are needed for the incredible wildlife, wilderness, water quality, and recreation values the GMUG National Forests provide surrounding the North Fork Valley. Our community survives based on the values encompassed within the National Forests that surround us, and our ability to access those public lands. I would like those values to be protected in the GMUG Forest Plan.