Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/10/2019 6:00:00 AM
First name: Peter
Last name: Ashman
Organization: Grand Valley Anglers
Title: President
Comments: First I'd like to thank the GMUG Forest Planning team for taking in to account public comment in the planning process. I represent Grand Valley Anglers, Ch 319 of Trout Unlimited, and as such the voices of almost 400 anglers and conservationists in the Grand Valley. While the GMUG plan is a good one, I feel there area some important improvements to take in to consideration. First, I'd like to advocate for much stronger protections for municipal watersheds in the forests. Kannah Creek supplies drinking water to Grand Junction, and while it is protected, the water in the west is crucial to life in the west, and deserves the highest levels of protection possible.

Additionally, there is far too little recommended wilderness in the plan currently. The GMUG's wilderness is the inherent appeal in them, and the fact that Kelso Mesa and Unaweep Canyon are not recognized in this draft is concerning. I hope to see significant addition as in future drafts! I would also like to add that wildlife protection is critical to a successful forest, whether that be fish, mammal, birds, insects, etc. The health of the ecosystem is dependent on the wildlife being protected.

Finally it is essential for our forests to be healthy and protected in order to combat climate change more effectively as we face the most critical challenge of our species!

Thank you for taking public comment and I hope you take these suggestions in to consideration as the plan moves forward. Protecting these forests is key to the success of future generations.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Ashman, President, Grand Valley Anglers #319