Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/19/2019 3:18:08 AM First name: Nancy Last name: Watkins Organization:

Title:

Comments: I love the Uinta Mountains and the Forests and the flaming gorge area, but I am concerned with the portions of the Forest Plan that I have read. There doesn't seem to be an emphasis on planting or regrowing trees. For example, after the Mustang Fire that took out hundreds of thousands of trees around the Dutch John area, there doesn't seem to be any attempt to replant or encourage trees to grow back. The green trees are what make the mountains beautiful. And I would assume that the purpose of the Forest Service is to plant or encourage the growth of trees. However, all of the sections of the document that I read just talk about selling timber, or burning trees. There doesn't seem to be any language to ensure that trees continue to grow after fires or any plans to replant trees when they don't naturally grow back after fires.

It seems like the Forest Service continually cuts down trees but doesn't ensure that they are growing back.

For example, at Windy Park, the tree line keeps moving further back as trees on the edge of the meadow are cut down, but don't grow back. It is the same with a lot of meadows where we camp. Trees are damaged and then cut down without any long term plans to ensure they grow back. We have seen crews of men (who said they are contractors for the Forest Service) cutting down trees in meadows. I don't understand this mentality. I understand why you want to clear out very thick trees to reduce fire danger or for timber sales, but why cut down trees in meadows or along the edge of meadows. We want those trees to stay so we have shade while we are camping.

Please change the language throughout the document to emphasize the need to encourage tree growth. Specifically in the climate change and carbon sections, you should emphasize the need to encourage tree growth and tree regrowth across the Uinta Mountains.