

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/6/2021 5:35:09 PM

First name: Anonymous

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am sending this letter as a concerned and interested citizen as well as a friend to local industry. I have lived in the Moab Valley for almost 30 years and the Forest and its management is extremely important to me.

Things I want to be included in the forest plan:

Make it easier to use timber. There are so many beetle killed trees that people such as myself would be interested in using. You aren't doing anything about it, or haven't been successful in a timber sale for whatever reason. There are locals here that have the ability to go in and select trees to take out (the dead standing especially) and lumber them and sell the wood to individuals in the community. Make it possible for our local people to do this. It will clean up the forest, decrease the pest insects and increase the biodiversity in the area. You claim that we can't cut dead standing trees because birds nest in them. But how many bird nests were burned in the recent Pack Creek Fire? We could have saved one or 2 trees and used the rest as well as created fire breaks by making roads and thinning fuel. Pinyon and Juniper trees need to be free for firewood. There is an enormous fuel load and many of these areas have been historically meadows that supported deer, elk, and other wildlife as well as created safe places for camping, site seeing and extra livestock grazing. Don't make people pay for a firewood permit when you are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on fuel suppression by turning it all to woodchips, and millions of dollars when it turns into a forest fire. Don't limit what they take unless you have an end goal of x-amount of trees per acre for thinning. Make it so people are aware of the areas of concern and provide them access to get there. Give them a date of when a fuels project would be completed and allow the citizens first pic at what's there.

There needs to be a better treatment plan of the woody shrubs like gambel oak, service berry, snowberry, in some places, manzanita. These help carry fires and usually become monocultures which are unhealthy and crowd out other native species. Areas like this need to be treated mechanically by mastication or chaining, culturally with sheep/goats or fire, or chemically with herbicide. Generally a plan of how often treatment should occur, or a mix of treatments. Treat it mechanically and then allow livestock to graze it or apply herbicide such as spike so that it doesn't come back as thick but still allows other plants to grow and out compete the problem.

Make it easier for the ranchers to run their cattle, or goats or sheep, whatever they choose. Give them incentive to be better stewards rather than more regulations and hoops to jump through.

Work with the DWR to reestablish a healthy deer population.

Allow research to be conducted and carried out instead of using the same ideas that have been established 50 plus years ago as answers to all of the problems.

All of the land owners I know have been burned by the forest service, I used to have high regards for the Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture but after talking to many of the people that actually have had dealing with the Forest Service, my views have changed and I question whether their motto really is caring for the land and serving the people, or if it's actually money in the hand and stealing from the people.