Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/26/2021 9:42:45 PM First name: MJ Last name: Martin Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have spent my entire life in communion with the forests and wilderness, have observed and taken census of high alpine creatures such as the pika for years, have walked among coyotes, bears, cougars, as well as spent uncountable hours, days, and years with marmots, pika, ptarmigan, and other fellow creatures. Once the forests and streams and high alpine meadows were lush, healthy, alive. Now vast areas of standing dead trees shed their silence over algae-choked streams with half the water they once had. The alpine has been severely damaged around places such as the Blue Lakes, Ice Lake, and many parts of the Grand Mesa, because too many people come to these places without understanding and regard for the fragility of the terrain. The USFS needs to address the vast changes brought on by climate change and extreme human impact. More logging is NOT the answer, unless it is the removal of dead and diseased trees. More wilderness, protected areas, and wildlife habitat is CRUCIAL, because if it is not done now, nothing will be left. The USFS management plan for the GMUG needs to go beyond the usual ideas, with the preservation of habitat for all species, plant and animal, to be the top priority. These current times are not "life as usual," so please let us very carefully consider saving what we have left.