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Comments: Please fully analyze the "Conservation Alternative" along with other alternatives in your forthcoming Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on proposed forest plan revisions.

As you know, the current forest plan is incredibly outdated, does not reflect more recent science, and won't ensure proper management for future sustainability of forest resources. Indeed, this plan should be revised to provide creative, proactive, and effective responses to the rapidly worsening climate and extinction crises.

I have reviewed the "Conservation Alternative" and I believe that it is much better than what the Forest Service has currently proposed. For a detailed comparison of it to what the Forest Service has proposed, please see this excellent website:

https://www.mantilasalconservationalternative.org/the-conservation-alternative-1

The mega drought in Utah and throughout the West has already seriously stressed native plants and wildlife. Forest Service status quo management should give way to basic science-driven reforms that ensure the future health, diversity, and productivity of forest resources, including the protection of viable native plant and wildlife species' populations. For example, past levels of authorized commercial livestock grazing and timber harvest are likely no longer appropriate in light of changed circumstances from the drought, increased fire severity, lengthier fire seasons, expanding invasive species, and greater public recreational pressures. With climate change, there is also the need to determine which management policies and decisions advance atmospheric release of carbon through vegetation loss, versus those that retain or increase carbon sequestration through vegetative capture. Developing a forest "carbon budget" may help to determine how these tradeoffs should be most effectively handled.

Again, please support a full and fair analysis of the "Conservation Alternative" in this Manti La Sal National Forest DEIS, and work to bring about plan revisions that would best position this forest to move forward in the national public interest. This is a wonderful opportunity to update and improve the future management of these significant federal lands in Utah.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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