Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/29/2021 4:46:56 PM
First name: Matt
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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your Draft Revised Forest Plan.

The Manti-La Sal is so important to so many for a variety of reasons, and in light of increasing pressures the forest faces from a hotter, drier Colorado Plateau, the revised Forest Plan must consider climate change; conservation of wildlands, water, native plants, and wildlife; increased Indigenous influence, and better responsiveness to the public.

All of these needs can be met by the Conservation Alternative, and it must be analyzed in its full and complete form in the upcoming Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Additionally, it's important to me that we do what we can to preserve and expand old growth trees (those 150+ years old), as well as preserve other forests that they can become old growth in the future.

Where grazing is concerned, I believe there is substantial science to support utilization at 30% for both the well-being of native plants, wildlife, and fragile water resources, not to mention being beneficial to the economics of grazing.

I ask that you consider adopting the recommendations from the Conservation Alternative's wilderness proposals and establish as protected areas Left Fork Huntington Creek Research Natural Area, Sinbad Ridge Research Natural Area, Red Towers Botanical Area, and Heliotrope Botanical Area.

As the entirety of the Manti-La Sal National Forest is ancestral lands for mutliple Native nations, I encourage you to place the highest priority on preservation of cultural sites, including expanding the definition of cultural sites beyond our western constructs of archeology and including cultural resources as defined by Native nations, including plants, waters, gathering places and more. I encourage you to seek better partnerships with Native nations to incorporate their traditional knowledge in your final plan.

Finally, God willing Bears Ears National Monument will soon be restored to its pre-2017 reduction. Planning for a renewed Bears Ears National Monument belongs in a revised monument management plan, and NOT this forest plan. It should be written in cooperation with the BLM and with shared governance from Native nations.

Thank you for your attention to these comments.