Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/30/2021 3:51:37 AM
First name: Mercedes
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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Some considerations that are important to me as the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is developed are modernizing grazing management (by allowing no more than 30% utilization of native species), preservation of old-growth forests and intact roadless areas and wilderness, and protection of pinyon jays as species of conservation concern.

The plan should adopt the Conservation Alternatives wilderness proposal and establish the following protected areas: Left Fork Huntington Creek Research Natural Area (RNA), Sinbad Ridge RNA, Red Towers Botanical Area, and Heliotrope Botanical Area.

When it comes to cultural sites, the forest should adopt protections in the plan that place a priority on their preservation. Tribes have thousands of years of locally relevant experience managing natural resources, and the Manti-La Sal must do better to encourage partnerships with Native nations to incorporate Indigenous Traditional Knowledge in the upcoming plan.

Finally, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland has recommended that full protection be returned to Bears Ears National Monument, and President Biden is widely expected to take action soon. Bears Ears planning belongs in a revised Monument Management Plan, not this Forest Plan, and that plan should be written in cooperation with the BLM and with shared governance from Native nations.

Thanks for your consideration of these comments,