Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/30/2021 4:00:45 PM
First name: Terry
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Organization:
Title:
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...

The Conservation Alternative is a comprehensive proposal for how the forest can be responsibly managed in light of climate change for conservation of water, native plants, and wildlife, for Indigenous influence, and for responsiveness to the public.

The Manti-La Sal should preserve and protect old-growth trees, particularly in the pinyon and juniper and ponderosa pine forest types. In addition, the forest should designate the pinyon jay as a species of conservation concern.

The Manti-La Sal 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.

The Manti-La Sals forest plan must prioritize the protection of cultural sites and areas of tribal interest over other uses of the forest, and the forest must encourage partnerships with Native nations to incorporate Indigenous traditional knowledge in planning.

Planning for Bears Ears National Monument should not occur in this forest plan it must wait until after President Biden restores or expands the monument, and it must include shared governance with Native nations.

The Manti-La Sal should modernize grazing management for the benefit of native plants, wildlife, and precious water sources.