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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please adopt the Conservation Alternative when you select a management plan for the future of the Manti-LaSal NF.

I'm intimately familiar with many areas in the MLSNF -- from the foothills and peaks above Spring City where I hunted as a youngster with my grandpa, to the plateau of Elk Ridge, where I've led volunteer restoration projects, to the peaks above Moab, where I've enjoyed quiet hikes and enormous vistas.

It is imperative at every opportunity that humanity choose the most strident conservation alternative possible when planning for future conditions. We're at a most critical juncture where business as usual will continue to drag us in the wrong direction. It's clearly because of programs that emphasize resource extraction and motorized recreation that we have undue degradation of soils, forests and water systems today. We can no longer continue down this path, merely because "that's the way we do it around here." That mindset is sticking our collective heads in the sand, ignoring our problems, and resulting in hotter burning fires, reduced water supply and loss of soils. This cycle is getting worse, and adopted of more conservation conscientious local management plans for our public lands are a good place to start.

Turn the page on the last 100 years of management that emphasizes extraction and exploitation of the natural world. Your grandchildren will thank you for giving them the same chances your grandparents had to enjoy the natural world beyond what we took from it.

Sincerely,

Dave Pacheco