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Comments: Thank you for providing the public with the opportunity to comment on the draft forest plan and draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the GMUG National Forest. As someone who values this public lands resource, I care deeply about the future of the GMUG National Forest and the wildlife, waters, and sustainable recreation resources that it provides. Please consider my following comments:

First, Alternative B's 34,000 acres of recommended wilderness is a small reflection of lands that should be recommended. I support the wilderness and special management area recommendations in Alternative D, and urge that those be included in the final plan.

Second, I support limiting route density in Wildlife Management Areas and Special Management Areas. This could help protect habitat for a variety of wildlife species.

Third, I am concerned that bighorn sheep has been left off the Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) list, given its vulnerability to disease passed from livestock and habitat fragmentation. The plan does provide adequate justification for not designating this and other species as SCC.

Fourth, the draft plan's analysis of timber suitability is unacceptable. The draft plan's timber suitability analysis seems designed to maximize the possibility of future timber harvest, even though the GMUG National Forest is much more valuable for conserving biological diversity and recreation than it ever could be for timber production.

*Fifth, landscape-level conservation, such as wilderness and special management areas, contributes to climate change solutions by both reducing fossil fuel pollution while providing opportunities for species and habitat adaptation. As the climate continues to warm, species are likely to move, often to higher elevation, so identification and adequate protection of refugia is very important.

While not an exhaustive list of the issues in the draft plan that I support or have concern with, the above are the issues that are most important to me, and ones that I hope are addressed by the GMUG in the final revised forest plan. Thank you for your consideration.