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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Manti-La Sal Forest Plan revision. As a native Utahn, Ive spent time in the Manti-La Sal Mountains and hope for a revised management plan that provides a sustainable, ecologically sound future for the forest.

Please analyze the Conservation Alternative, in full, in the upcoming Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Additionally:
-Historical logging and tree removal has resulted in a loss of centuries old ponderosa, pinyon, and juniper trees. The new plan should protect old-growth trees over 150 years old and allow young forests to develop into old-growth stands in the future.

-Pinyon jay populations have been declining and continued loss is predicted. Please review the current data on this species to see if it warrants potential inclusion as a Species of Conservation Concern.

-Livestock grazing is permitted on nearly the entire Manti-La Sal National Forest at a level of 60% utilization. Please consider reducing the utilization to 30%. The best available science shows that 30% utilization is better for the health of the land and for the economics of grazing.

-The Conservation Alternative includes a wilderness proposal that would ensure a broad range of ecosystems/habitats are protected for people and wildlife alike, and for climate change resiliency. These proposed protected areas use roads, mountain bike trails, and off-road vehicle routes as boundaries so that a variety of recreation experiences would remain available. Please adopt the Conservation Alternatives wilderness proposal and establish the following protected areas: Left Fork Huntington Creek Research Natural Area, Sinbad Ridge Research Natural Area, Red Towers Botanical Area, and Heliotrope Botanical Area.

-The entirety of the Manti-La Sal National Forest is ancestral lands for multiple Native nations. Tribes have thousands of years of locally relevant experience managing natural resources. Please ensure that the new plan places a high priority on preservation of cultural sites. The plan should include cultural resources as defined by Native nations, including culturally significant plants, waters, gathering places, and more. The plan should also encourage partnerships with Native nations to incorporate traditional knowledge of resources in the area in management decisions.

Thank you for your time.