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First name: Alexander

Last name: Kinsey

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I believe the blended alternative (or B) for the GMUG provides a strong foundation, that with some improvements, will have lasting benefits for wildlife. Below are some of the components I support within alternative B:

Alternative B creates 720k Acres of Wildlife Management Areas - WMAs are a key part of wildlife management. By adding 720,000 acres of them in the GMUG, the blended alternative creates sustainable habitat protections for wildlife at a landscape level.

Alternative B maintains habitat connectivity for wildlife - By limiting route density to 1 linear mile per square mile within WMAs, alternative B helps to protect migration corridors and the highest priority big game habitats. Additionally, alternative B includes a forest wide guideline that would ensure wildlife security areas are a management priority across the entire forest and that recreators will be less likely to negatively impact wildlife as lower route density stops habitat fragmentation.

I believe alternative B would be strengthened by incorporating standards and guideline that would further reduce habitat fragmentation and retain or enhance existing security areas through route consolidation, seasonal closures, siting new routes away from security habitat and WMAs, and by removing barriers such as fencing.

I would also like to see stronger protections for bighorn sheep and stronger standards and guidelines to ensure commercial timber sales within WMAs would retain or enhance forage production and availability within seasonal concentration areas, production areas, and security areas.

Finally, I would encourage the forest service to include aspects of the GPLI that would compliment WMA protections within alternative B.