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Comments: Thank you for tackling the Draft Revised Forest Plan (DRFP): Revised Land Management Plan for the Manti-La Sal National Forest at this time. The issues we face today regarding drought, fire hazards, air quality, watershed protection, habitat loss and reduction, increased recreational and commercial use of the public lands remind us that what worked 30 years ago may not meet the needs of today.

Throughout the DRFP now under review I continually see initial actions recommended to occur within five years. We are facing an environment that is changing fast. It is essential that the United States Forest Service (USFS) start immediately upon adoption of this Land Management Plan to assess, evaluate and map existing conditions as soon as possible (ASAP). I propose that all initial timelines be within one to two years at the most and that the timeline for actions be speeded up accordingly. The USFS should be prepared to hit the ground running and then get to work ASAP.

As a Castle Valley (Grand County) resident I support watershed protections that have been proposed by the Town of Castle Valley for the sections on Moab Geographical Area and Municipal Watershed Management Area. That includes prohibition of any mining, fracking, and oil and gas drilling in the Moab Geographical Area.

I understand fully that the philosophy of the USFS regarding public lands is to take a multi-use approach. Remember, though, that the Manti-La Sal National Forest covers a relatively small area, while the surrounding communities (especially Moab) attract an outsize number of visitors and residents who want to use the forest land in numerous ways. It is easy to overload such an unbalanced system. The rules and guidelines that work somewhere else may not be suitable for this site.

Our national forests are ecosystems. Healthy trees depend upon healthy air, soil, flora and fauna. Management of nonnative species versus native species-whether grasses, mammals, bees, and other species is important for its intrinsic value. Some of them are local treasures for the state of Utah, such as the ancient aspen groves and the abundance of native bee species within the state. All departments of our government and members of our society should strive for excellence in the management of its public lands.

I am impressed how closely the recommendations of the Conservation Alternative coordinate with the DFRP. It seems to me they are just asking the USFS to beef up its own plan, to recognize the urgency of many of the issues that face these lands and the people who live near them and use them. The Conservation Alternative is asking that the best scientific and management efforts be made now-not later. See it at:

<https://www.mantilasalconservationalternative.org/post/the-conservation-alternative-story>

I think it would be irresponsible NOT to include the entire Conservation Alternative in its forthcoming draft so that it can be reviewed line for line in making the final decisions about what the USFS should be prepared to do to effectively manage the Manti-La Sal National Forest over the next 10-15 years.