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Comments: I realize the Forest Service is an agency whose mission must balance resource conservation with use, but it is obvious in countless ways that the Manti-LaSal National Forest (MLNF) has erred too far on the side of use for way too long. The rangelands are in terrible shape, precious riparian corridors and wetlands are fouled by livestock, non-native goats are ruining alpine plant communities, commercial apiaries "resting" their honeybees push out native pollinators, and there's too much motorized recreation, which only adds to greenhouse gas and dust emissions, stresses wildlife and detracts from the enjoyment of non-motorized recreationists. When is the MLNF going to follow its own agency mission statement "to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of this and future generations"?

PLEASE INCLUDE THE CONSERVATION ALTERNATIVE in its complete form in the draft environmental impact statement. According to NEPA, a full range of alternatives need to be considered, and alternatives should be significantly different and have significantly different consequences. I have worked as an Ecologist for 20 years, have recreated in the La Sals over most of those years and am very familiar with conditions on MLNF. After reviewing the differences between the proposed Forest Plan Alternative and the Conservation Alternative, it is clear that the Conservation Alternative is reasonable, very different, and the consequences (especially in light of climate change) are profound. Every topic covered by this alternative will improve ecosystem conditions, ultimately improving conditions for all user groups. Continuing the current management, particularly with respect to livestock grazing and with the current lack of consideration for drought and climate change, is not sustainable.

We do not need overgrazing, timber harvesting and mineral extraction from MLNF. Times have changed! Recreation in well-stewarded, healthy ecosystems is the main use MLNF should be supporting now. People need a refuge from urban life, healing of body and mind through immersion in natural beauty, quiet and natural sounds. The La Sals are a rare gem of montane and alpine ecosystems in our red rock desert, but they need protection from more extraction in order to heal from past overuse. Don't squander this opportunity by going with the status quo, INCLUDE THE CONSERVATION ALTERNATIVE in the upcoming MLNF Management Plan EIS.