Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/25/2021 8:57:12 PM
First name: Chloe
Last name: Hollis
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear USFS Officials,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Manti-La Sal Draft Revised Forest Plan.

I have lived in western Colorado and southeastern Utah for over 35 years, during which time I have camped, travelled, skied, hunted, biked, fished, and cut firewood in the forests of the area. I am a current resident and property owner in Grand County, Utah, and I spend at least 50 days in the Manti La Sal forest every year. I have observed all types of weather, conditions, and uses in the forest, and I believe that I represent a balanced and well-informed perspective on how the forests should be effectively managed. Finally, I know many of the people who participate in the multiple uses of the forests, and I can confidently say that these suggestions represent their opinions as well.

Please consider the following information as you begin the revision of the forest plan:

Cattle grazing - Cattle grazing in the La Sal Mountains at current levels is incompatible with increasing recreational use and maintenance of the vital Moab Valley watershed. The number of people who benefit from cattle grazing is small in comparison to the number of individuals who rely upon the natural and recreational resources of the Manti La Sal National Forest for their livelihood and health. Cattle grazing destroys recreational trails, interferes with camping and hunting, and degrades water resources.

Campfires- As the uncontrolled spread of the Pack Creek Fire clearly demonstrated, the increasing number of unattended campfires in developed and dispersed camping areas must be better controlled. Please consider extending the fire ban season and increasing the amount of enforcement dedicated to preventing wildfires.

Timber thinning - Again, as the Pack Creek Fire showed us, there are thick fuels of downed timber in many areas of the La Sal Mountains. We recommend working with local recreation groups (skiers, bikers, equestrians, hunters, etc.) to determine priority areas to perform selective thinning of dead down and standing trees.

Winter motorized use - The majority of the terrain on the west side of the La Sal Mountains is more suitable for non-motorized recreation in the winter. Additionally, roads are steep and narrow, and parking is limited. Consider a limit on the amount of winter motorized recreation in the Geyser Pass area, and focus motorized use on the east side of the range to reduce conflicts with non-motorized winter recreationists. This approach has proven successful in areas like Grand Mesa and Vail Pass in Colorado.

Summer motorized use - Please limit summer motorized travel to currently established roads, and prevent any further spread of destructive and illegal OHV routes.

Bear hunting - Bear hunting with dogs, especially in the late spring, is highly disruptive to all other users and

activities within hearing range, sometimes 10-15 miles away. Additionally, this is an outdated and abusive practice of starving and neglecting dogs who are then found running along the La Sal loop road, or show up in camps begging for food and water. These abusive practices should be made illegal in the Manti-La Sal National Forest.

Mountain goats - Introduced mountain goats are destructive and have not naturally evolved in the La Sal Mountains. Since their introduction to the range, they have dramatically impacted the alpine tundra and native vegetation species. The goats should be eliminated from the range and transplanted to mountains where they are historically native and less disruptive to native ecosystems.

Bike trails - Several mountain bike routes, including Burro Pass (Whole Enchilada), have not been able to sustain the impacts from increased traffic and popularity. These are originally hiking trails that were not designed to withstand the erosion from tens of thousands of bike tires every year. Please support the re-routing and reconstruction of these types of trails to be more sustainable for future riders and hikers.

In addition, I'd like the Forest Service to analyze the Conservation Alternative, in full, in the upcoming Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you for your consideration and your time. This is an excellent opportunity to look forward and address the growing needs of the Manti-La Sal National Forest in collaboration with the local communities and new user groups.

Best regards.