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Comments: To the Manti-LaSal National Forest:
I am writing, again, in support of revising the outdated Manti-LaSal NF Draft Plan [Draft] and have been actively participating in and well as tracking the process over the last 2 years+ as to the progress being made in it's development. And I certainly appreciate the level of involvement all Forest Service personnel and stakeholders have brought to this long process. Still, I see several areas that need further emphasis and consideration.

1)It is key, and I believe imperative, for the Draft to be set in the over-arching context of climate change. The long years of drought (now referred to as Mega-Drought) have already impacted snow pack and soil moisture recharge. It is well established in forecast models that the 4-Corners Region has already entered into the driest period on record. These conditions require that land management decisions be made for what will likely be uncertain environmental conditions across all resource disciplines - soils, watershed health (available and clean water), pollinator habitat, wildlife/wildlife habitat to name a few. Traditional practices and forest resource uses really must re-envisioned. Weather extremes and unpredictability are, and will, continue to challenge these uses - particularly livestock grazing. At present I believe grazing practices across the Forest are unsustainable and will only become more untenable. Another example, is the devastating impacts of the introduced Mountain goat on fragile alpine terrain and to the survival to the LaSal Daisy and other sensitive species.
2)I do appreciate, in particular, that the Forest Service acknowledges that it is important to have areas where motorized use does not occur.
3)The Draft must fully address resource use/decision making on a sound scientific foundation. This implicates developing and adhering to standards for each element of a proposed project/action. And standards can only be tested if there is a firm commitment to monitoring. These aspects are, at present, not well addressed in the Draft.
4)The Forest Service has in hand a Proposed Conservation Alternative developed by concerned public organizations and individuals. It includes all the necessary elements for the revision of the Manti-LaSal Plan as provided by Federal code. I see it as one of a range of reasonable alternatives that the Forest Service should include during the Draft EIS analysis process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment - again - throughout this process.