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First name: Chris Last name: Benson Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please consider the Manti-La Sal Conservation Alternative as you move forward with natural resources planning for this important landscape. I have been a resident in the SE areas for the better part of two decades and I have seen some of effects of climate change as well as a consistent increase in land use by recreationists. We need to have more data available to better understand how these vulnerable ecosystems will respond to both climate change as well as visitor impacts. I support aggressive fuels treatment guided by robust science to better address our wildfire issue. I also support measured wilderness designation, balancing ecosystem protections as well as certain areas set aside for motorized winter recreation. Lastly, it seems evident to me that cattle grazing as well as the introduction of mountain goats have undesired, albeit, unmeasured negative impacts on ecosystem health (e.g. water quality). Please consider alternatives that limit or mitigate the potentially harmful impacts of these ungulates on our public lands.