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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Please consider the Conservation Alternative for the Manti-La Sal's revised forest plan

Oct 16, 2021

Forest Supervisor, Manti-La Sal National Forest

Dear Manti-La Sal National Forest,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the revised forest plan for

the Manti-La Sal National Forest.

The Manti-La Sal National Forest is important not only to nearby Utah

communities, but to all who appreciate and rely on the innumerable

benefits the forest provides. Foremost, Native peoples have relied on

the land encompassed by the national forest for many generations to

center their cultures and provide sustenance. In revising the forest

plan, the Forest Service must respect its obligation to meaningfully

consult with local Tribes to learn from their knowledge and address

their concerns.

The revision of the forest plan comes at a critical time: the impacts

of climate change are already becoming apparent as the Colorado Plateau

gets hotter and drier. It is imperative that the revised forest plan

squarely addresses future conditions by considering the impacts of, and

adapting to, climate change. The Forest Service must use the revision

process to implement additional measures to conserve resources within

the Manti-La Sal National Forest such as water, native plants, old

trees, wildlife, and wildlands.

The Conservation Alternative prepared by conservation organizations and

concerned citizens addresses the importance of Tribal consultation and adapting to the impacts of climate change. I ask that you fully analyze and consider the Conservation Alternative as one of the formal alternatives developed in the upcoming draft environmental impact statement.

After ignoring tribal concerns and their stewardship practices for a very long time their concerns and interests should play a large role in determining which plan the Forest Service implements. Its critical that the best plan is chosen not the one that caters to extractive industries that have left a trail of environmental cleanups for the public to address on our public lands out west.

Sincerely,

Richard Van Aken