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

Oct 17, 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. By protecting these from climate

change, they can help mitigate its worst effects. Of course, now all

of our precious water sources must be protected. And old growth trees, our best allies, must be protected. Saving them becomes saving ourselves.

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 including the Conservation Alternative in the upcoming draft environmental impact statement. Thank you.

Sincerely,