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First name: William
Last name: Funk
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. As a former USPS interpretive ranger in Utah, this matter is very important to me.

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.