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First name: Theophilus

Last name: Griswold

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comment on the Manti-La Sal Draft Revised Forest Plan:

The Manti-La Sal is important to me because it is a landscape ecosystem that will be under threat as climate warming changes the limits of what is sustainable in this region. Disturbance to this ecosystem will inevitably lead to a breakdown of that can be sustained here, and likely result in a degraded landscape that can not recover as changing environmental pressures increase.

Vegetation Removal and Old Growth

National forest lands have often been dramatically changed due to centuries of large-scale logging. The history of logging on the Manti-La Sal has meant the loss of centuries-old ponderosa pines. Historic and recent projects to increase livestock forage and transform woody and shrubland habitat into grazing pastures has meant the loss of tens of thousands of acres of native vegetation across the forest. Conversion of ecosystems is not a wise path to follow as we see the climate warm, and these regions dry out.

I would like to see native vegetation, including piñon pine and juniper forests, managed and protected as important habitat for wildlife, including migratory birds like the imperiled pinyon jay. Please protect old growth trees-those over 150 years old-and encourage younger forests to develop into old-growth stands in the future.

I would like the Forest Service to analyze the Conservation Alternative, in full, in the upcoming Draft Environmental Impact Statement.