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Comments: Forest Service Planners,

I am a third generation Coloradan, retired petroleum engineer, avid outdoors-man, with BSc. in Chemistry and MSc in Mechanical Engineering from CSM. Thank you for taking up this arduous task of developing a forest management plan for the GMUG that will satisfy stakeholders. More likely it will piss them off equally well, a sure sign of a good plan because no group gets everything they want. From my perspective as a Hotchkiss resident, the task is especially difficult in a rapidly changing world. Heck, the current plan dates from 1983, a year before introduction of the Macintosh personal computer, ten years before a major pine beetle infestation in central Colorado, 24 years before the iPhone, and certainly before discussion of global warming that morphed into climate change. Here climate issues are very real, with a prolonged moderate drought that this year hit extreme drought conditions and below normal streamflow (www.drought.gov), certainly worse conditions than when the current plan was implemented. In this area, the towns of Hotchkiss, Cedaredge, Orchard, Eckert, Colbran, Mesa and a vast agricultural area are reliant on waters originating on the Grand Mesa. This resource is less secure than in 1983, but further degradation can be mitigated by forest management practices that promote forest health and a balanced ecosystem of flora and fauna. I believe this requires minimizing logging and motorized recreation, and thus I am favor of Alternative D with additional provisions. Even Alternative D has too much emphasis on Timber (more than the current plan) and includes areas too steep, that could not be economically harvested, and even includes critical wildlife habitat (Sage Grouse among others), and all these lands lead to inflated calculations of sustainable yields and PTSQ. Removing timber exposes snowpack to sunshine and accelerates evaporative loss. Wildlife needs large intact and interconnected space of at least 500 acres with no roads. Much of the forest on Grand Mesa is dominated by spruce that will likely become infested with the spruce beetle infesting forests further east in Colorado. The pine beetle outbreak has provided some best practices for managing and restoring forest health (Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003).

In 1983 the original ATV, a 3 wheeled Honda ATC, and the "mountain bike" were 4 years old. Both genre have evolved enormously and populously. The current side by side Razor could not have been foreseen in 1983, nor its destruction of our public lands. Hinsdale county is overrun by them, and the popular Alpine Loop is as hazardous from their traffic as the terrain. Similarly, popular loops around Tincup and Pitkin are pretty much off limits for anything other than a side by sides. The accidents keep the alpine rescue volunteer groups busy, and CDOT reported 2258 deaths from 2015 through 2017 associated with OHV's. By comparison, there were 600 traffic fatalities in 2017. Please, do not encourage further carnage by opening more terrain for motorized outdoor recreation.

Colorado has grown since 1983 by 182% to 5.7 million. This puts pressure on natural resources and makes wildlife, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness, and forest ecosystems more precious. An additional million people will likely be in Colorado before another GMUG management plan revision. Prepare for the onslaught, and prioritize protection over resource exploitation.

Thank you.

Kon Wyatt III