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First name: Samuel

Last name: Brown

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Jonathan Tucker,

Thank you for taking comments on the forest plan that will guide the forest management for years to come.

My name is Samuel Brown and I have lived in Paonia for 32 years. I am a self employed artist with a Bachelors degree in biology, a former National Park Service backcountry ranger, and a member of the Conservation Center in Paonia. I am an active user of our National Forests for cross country skiing hiking and nature study.

The Forest lands around Paonia are a very important to the economy of our area. After years of coal mining we are rebuilding our economy to include agro-tourism, hiking, hunting, wineries, organic farms, and small business. I support Alternative D because it is the best alternative to support our Economy. I especially support the Wildlife Management Areas and special Management Areas in Alt. D. Healthy wildlife populations bring tourists and hunters to our area. I am also concerned about at-risk species such as bighorn sheep, northern goshawk, boreal owl, lynx, bats and other at-risk animals. Critical habitat for the Sage Grouse should be protected.

I support the recommended wilderness areas in the Community Conservation Proposal. The area above Lost Lake on the Beckwith Mountains should be wilderness. These areas are important to protect because they are what brings tourist to recreate. I also use these areas.

Our watershed health is important for the Western United States. Protection of the watershed is very important for the many organic farms in our valley. I recommend not harvesting timber on slopes greater than 40 percent for better water quality. Areas near municipal water supplies should be protected from timber harvest. The preferred alternative must include the wilderness areas included in the CORE Act.

I cross-country ski often in the Grand Mesa, McClures Pass, Stevens Gulch, and Kebler Pass areas. It would be nice if timber harvest didn't conflict with areas where people like to ski.

I support Alternative D because it is the one that would best support our economy and protect our National Forests for future generations.

Thank you for taking my comments on this important planning document.