

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/17/2021 5:21:28 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: First I would like to say that I have the greatest respect and admiration for all that you have done to protect, replenish and nurture Colorado's astonishing GMUG lands. I'm sure it's a challenge, and no easy job at that - but as I know you also feel, ever so worth it.

I came from New Mexico to live in the Northfork Valley just over a year ago. I had never been to Colorado before and I was, and continue to be, awed by the amazing GMUG land. I have enjoyed a number of wonderful (not to mention challenging) hikes and continue to thrive on walks in the GMUG areas. Its peace and beauty bring me unbelievable joy. Its refuge calms my mind.

On that basis I am writing this letter regarding the proposed GMUG Forest Planning Draft, as I believe it is our mandate to manage the area with with the primary goals of support, protection and enhancement of its wildlife, watershed, air, forests and sustainable recreation.

In this vein, I have a few specific comments:

I urge you to quash the creation of temporary roads; to limit the use of motorized vehicles to specific, contained areas; and to actively enforce these restrictions.

In addition I believe it is critical that 546,000 GMUG acres be reserved for Wilderness as specified in the Draft Plan's Alternative D. My belief in the importance of this larger acreage allocation (as opposed to the much smaller wilderness area put forth in Alternative B) stems in part from the huge increase in in forest usage by U. S. citizens who flocked there for refuge during our trying time with the Covid crisis. I am convinced that mankind will increasingly need Wilderness areas for the continued longevity of the earth and for life itself.

I am not addressing the finer details of how these objectives can be met, as so many organizations and more experienced individuals have already done so. But I ask that you honor the spirit of my goals and concerns as you finalize plans for the GMUG land. While I understand that logging and other financially-related activities are important and I appreciate that with its many visitors, objectives vary according to personal preferences, I firmly believe that the only truly tantamount goal is the protection and preservation of the land.

I am convinced that our forests, wildlife, watersheds and mountains are the greatest gift mankind can ever hope to receive. As such we must treat them with the respect, understanding and support they deserve, so that they will continue to grow and nourish the earth and its inhabitants forever.

Thank you.