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Comments: Plan Revision Team,

Representing the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, I have another suggestion for the Forest Plan Revision. On pg 8 the plan currently has this passage:

"The rugged mountains, canyons and mesas, rolling hills, and broad valleys provide scenic beauty, and the relatively natural environment offers an excellent field laboratory for environmental research and education, including research conducted by staff of the 90-year old, world-renowned Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory."
"

We really appreciate that reference and suggest a couple of changes, clarifying that much of the research is done by scientists from federal agencies, and colleges and universities from across the world. Also, we suggest inserting a clause clarifying the value of the research to the United States as well as the US Forest Service. Perhaps something along the lines of:

"The rugged mountains, canyons and mesas, rolling hills, and broad valleys provide scenic beauty, and the relatively natural environment offers an excellent natural laboratory for field research and education, including activities hosted through the world-renowned Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL). Founded in 1928 as a nonprofit on the remains of a mining town in Gothic, CO and dedicated to understanding the ecosystems of the Gunnison Basin, RMBL annually hosts scientists from 50+ colleges and universities as well as national labs (e.g., Los Alamos National Laboratory and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory) and federal agencies (e.g., NASA, NOAA, and the USGS). In addition to providing insights in fundamental biological processes, the research has provided globally relevant insights into biodiversity, food security, water quality and quantity, air quality, and human health as well as supported USFS management of public lands in the region, including documentation of uncommon species, the distribution and management of invasive species, and the general impacts of recreation on wildlife."

I'm happy to provide references documenting any of the passages above. Strengthening this section might more strongly motivate the creation of the special interest area, tying it clearly to public benefit.

I'm happy to answer any questions!