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Comments: I have just returned from a walk out our back door to the Aspen-filled meadows at the base of Electric Mountain. The future of the GMUG National Forest is the future of my home and my family. As such, I appreciate the opportunity for the public to learn about and comment on this Forest Plan. We were able to attend the Paonia virtual open house which was helpful in understanding the most constructive comments.

I agree that the forest plan needs updating and we are firmly in support of Alt. B as the most balanced plan on the table and hope this alternative or something similar is the final plan. Balanced, mixed use management is key to the success and sustainability of our national forests, and any plan that is too extreme in the way it manages people, wildlife, recreation and commercial pursuits, is not going to be a long term success.

Secondary to Alt. B, the next most desirable option for the plan is Alt. C. This is also a well balanced alternative in terms of recreation settings and timber management.

Alt. D is excessive in terms of turning motorized settings into recommended wilderness with 3 huge areas proposed for wilderness that are not connected to current wilderness areas. Alt D is not a reasonable approach to the forest plan.

In terms of our immediate area - the Paonia ranger district and Electric Mountain, Hubbard Park, Chalk Mountain and Elk Park - I would like to see a balanced approach to recreation management and settings for both motorized and non-motorized recreation. In all aspects of recreation it's important that conservation of habitat and protection of wildlife is prioritized, however, that does not mean full-fledged, unabated support of non-motorized recreation and/or wilderness areas only with total condemnation for motorized opportunities. A balanced approach is key.

I understand that the harvest of timber as well as sale / commercial logging is necessary however the GMUG forest has some of the oldest and most dignified, healthy forest left in the state and it would be a shame to see the level of logging operations currently happening in the Hubbard Park area continue or increase. Some forest management / harvest and commercial logging will always have to happen, and the benefits of removing very old timber to replant with younger / carbon-sink growth is evident but therein lies the key - replanting after harvesting and logging must continue and be actively managed particularly for the beautiful Engelmann Spruce in this area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.