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First name: Andrew

Last name: Goldman

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I have hiked and ridden horseback on Kelso Mesa numerous times in my 45 plus years in Western Colorado. While overlaying a WMA over a Colorado Roadless Area would seem to be more protection for Kelso Mesa the single standard for WMAs (maximum road density of 1 linear mile per square mile) needs to be strengthened. This would have little impact on wildlife beyond what management already exists or is proposed in Alternative B (e.g. semi primitive nonmotorized, Colorado Roadless). We need the strongest protection possible for this last large relatively unspoiled section of the Uncompahgre Plateau.

Specifically, management as a LWC is the most desirable alternative. In its absence, if Alt B is adopted, standards for WMAs must be further enumerated. One possible such standard should ensure retention of security habitat for big game i.e. require or encourage maintenance of habitat blocks at least 500 acres in size having no roads or other human intrusions in big game habitat within the WMA. (This standard or guideline is needed to allow achievement of MA-DC-WLDF-01: "Large blocks of diverse habitat are relatively undisturbed by routes, providing security for the life history, distribution, and movement of many species, including big-game species. ...").

There are other possibilities for strengthening WMAs. I would encourage the FS staff to work with Colorado Parks and Wildlife in developing several others before the final draft is completed.