

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/20/2021 5:13:56 PM

First name: Cindy

Last name: Farny

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service Decision Makers, Your decisions that you are making on this plan will last for over 30 years probably even more and none of us have a glass ball. However as of now our Public Lands need your help.

There is a huge need for people to recreate in places that are as close to wilderness as possible. We need quiet spaces now and even more into the future. Opening lands to motorized travel, logging and oil and gas wells is not the answer to protecting our environment. Wild public lands must provide a safe harbor for diverse species by protecting the ecosystems upon which we all depend. I am reading "Finding the Mother Tree discovering the Wisdom of the Forest" by Suzanne Simard. Quote- Simard brings us into her world, the intimate world of trees, in which she brilliantly illuminates the fascinating truths-that trees are not simply the source of timber or pulp but are a complicated, interdependent circle of life; that forests are social, cooperative creatures connected through underground networks by which trees communicate their vitality and vulnerabilities with communal lives not that different from our own." This book is a New York Times best seller. Simard makes a compelling and overarching observation that stewardship is clear, understandable and necessary for all our public lands. The science of mycology is enlightening us to what is happening underneath the ground we walk on! It needs to be protected. In your plan do you even take into account the mycology of the forests and ecosystems? Sometimes the smallest parts of the forests are the most important.

I support adding Baldy and Bear Creek as recommended additions to the Uncompahgre Wilderness. Bear Creek should be designated as a Wild and Scenic River. The Ouray Board of Commissioners support this. For the reasons stated above I oppose excessive acreage found suitable for timber harvest/logging. The Big Horn should be named as a species of conservation concern.

We are at the tip of the iceberg for what our public lands mean to so many people. Covid has shown us how many people need our public lands to recreate on. We have more RV's visiting our lands along with people demanding places to ride their new OHVs. But we must not cave in to providing for all. We can never meet all the demands from the public... but we can protect our forests and high alpine terrain upon which we all depend on for our future understanding how nature plays a huge role in our ecosystems. PROTECT FOR THE FUTURE!! You will never regret putting nature first.

I operate a back country cabin and I know and hear first hand how important it is for people to get away from cell phones, and the internet. I am in favor of human powered recreation wherever possible. Walking is the least intrusive, and destructive way of moving through our public lands. And even the use of hiking trails demand maintenance. There should be a bigger total number of miles for hikers over motorized travel.

I hope you have a chance to read the book I mentioned. It has changed my view of how nature is more than what meets the eye.

With respect for nature, your decisions will guide us into the future....