

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/21/2021 4:34:54 PM

First name: John

Last name: Mitchell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: In brief, I support the proposal areas included in the Community Conservation Proposal. I live on the south slope of The Grand Mesa and for the past 10 years, I have spent many days there year-round. I cross country and downhill ski, hike, camp, bike, fish, and mushroom hunt. I sell my photos of The Grand Mesa at the Grand Mesa Lodge to visitor and locals alike. I care deeply about protecting and preserving wilderness character that exist in our National Forest lands and feel strongly that these resources can be lost very quickly if proper management doesn't exist. I support the recommended Wilderness designations included in Alternative D, as well as support the inclusion of all recommended Wilderness areas presented in the Community Conservation Proposal and Gunnison Public Lands Initiative. I strongly support the Wildlife Management Area concept presented in the draft plan, and ask that those be retained and strengthened with additional plan components. Additional plan components for this designation are needed to ensure retention of security habitat for big game. I recommend a standard or guideline that requires or encourages maintenance of habitat blocks at least 500 acres in size having no roads or other human intrusions in big game habitat in all areas assigned to this management area, as I believe this will further bolster protections for wildlife species. Sincerelt - John W Mitchell