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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the GMUG Draft Revised Forest Plan and DEIS. My comments are associated with my long term residency in the Gunnison Basin, engagement in multiple collaborative conservation stakeholder groups associated with Gunnison Sage-grouse and the shrub-steppe ecosystem restoration, technical expertise provided to the USFWS recovery team and the IUCN Galliformes species specialist commission and current faculty member advising graduate students in the ecological fields at Western Colorado University.

1)I appreciated the chance to provide early comments associated with Gunnison Sage-Grouse and the incorporation of those suggestions into the current draft. Importantly, the species now has a USFWS recovery plan and a recovery implementation strategy document. The current GMUG Draft plan should be better aligned with those documents. One critical threat to the GMUG and to the sagebrush ecosystem is cheatgrass invasion and every effort should be made to provide support for cheatgrass control and eradication within the plan.

2)One area of the current plan that I encourage change is the designation of critical habitat for species of conservation concern associated with Criterion 9 and 10. Ditz et al. (2000) discusses a methodology for a much more inclusive and structured way of defining species of conservation concern and should be considered. Such would be more consistent with the current regulations associated with forest planning.

Dietz, M. S. et al. An assessment of vulnerable wildlife, their habitats, and protected areas in the contiguous United States. *Biological Conservation* 248 (2020) 1036-46.

3)My main concern with the current draft forest plan is the lack of full inclusion of the decade long work by the Gunnison Basin community using collaborative conservation and best available science to create protected area recommendations. The work of Gunnison Public Land Initiative should be included in the blended alternative and is currently only represented, in part, in alternative D.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these general comments that will likely be addressed well by national conservation organizations and those GPLI members of our community who have worked so hard to reach consensus on the protection levels within our valley.