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Comments: I'd like to begin by saying that I appreciate all the time you've spent in revising the GMUG plan. Having a degree in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University, I understand how difficult it is to please all of the different parties involved. Still I would like to give you some feedback on areas that are important to me.

The first part I'd like to comment on deals with the wildlife and wilderness/special management areas. Being an ardent Elk and Deer hunter in the public lands surrounding the North Fork Valley, I think it is crucial that you do as much as possible to protect the wildlife and the habitat that the wildlife needs. Providing management plans to protect these resources is critical for local communities. Although the USFS offers significant acreage in the draft plan's preferred alternative as Wildlife Management Areas, management of these areas must include more significant standards and guidelines to protect wildlife species. Without these specifics, wildlife is left at the mercy of the current administrations. They simply can't survive in healthy populations with a pendulum swing of management. Wildlife need stable environments and migration pathways to sustain populations. They already face detrimental habitat encroachment and destruction, climate change fluctuations and potential threats of severe fire danger. In addition, there is a lot of recent research showing that declines in the Elk population are correlated with increased activity during the calving season. Standing timber provides safety and security for these calving Elk during the spring. Doubling the size of timber sales will likely have a negative impact on the Elk population around the North Fork Valley.

This increase in timber sales also goes against our targets of sequestering carbon to combat climate change.

Wilderness/special management areas are an important part of this revised plan as well. I strongly encourage you to consider the areas of Coal Mountain, Chalk Mountain and Elk Park, Electric Mountain, McClure Pass /Munsey Stock Trail and Mendicant Ridge as wilderness management areas as they all have characteristics of wilderness areas. These are included in your Alternate D plan and I hope to see them in your final plan. These wilderness areas are an important part in my life as they are the place I go to to seek solitude and solace in this crazy world we are living in. Doctors are even prescribing time in nature as a therapy for anxiety and depression which is on the rise in our country. What better medicine is there than nature, especially in wilderness areas, as a way to clear your mind, breathe deep and find peace? These areas are important to both humans and wildlife. Our North Fork watershed depends on many of these areas to provide the valley with clean water. Clean water is essential part of the numerous organic farms in the area which are a critical part of our sustainable economy. Waiting five years to implement the designation of a dozen watersheds in this area is simply unacceptable.

So in conclusion, I hope you put a larger emphasis on more wilderness/special management areas and severely curb the proposed timber sales so we can continue to enjoy quality hunting and wildlife opportunities around the North Fork Valley. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the GMUG revised plan.