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First name: Colleen

Last name: Stabolepszy

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please reconsider the new GMG forest plan and take into account the climate impacts expected (and already happening) in Western Colorado and increased population growth. There are too many people camping in one location, the places I would go to bird are now overrun with people, many who are up there to party and not enjoy nature. The flammulated owls have a small population and are dependent on old growth Ponderosa Pine trees and because they consume most moths they are dependent on an active understory, which large concentrated camping eliminates.

I know you are not funded with enough staff to patrol the areas or enforce the laws and regulations, which is why they should not be loosed, but increased. As you know from the research, beetle kill areas are not more fire prone. Logging should be performed only when selectively leaving a mosaic of species and mixed ages of trees. Please take into account the decline of species as areas are logged. For example, the olive-sided flycatcher is becoming rarer each year.

As a member of the Audubon Society and Western Colorado Alliance, I implore you to consider all of their suggestions , including:

Reverse the exclusion of Kelso Mesa from Alternative B. If Alternative B's management plan for Kelso remains in the final analysis, ask the Forest Service to strengthen WMA standards. Keep Wild and Scenic River Recommendation for Kelso and North Fork Escalante Creeks.

At Blue Lakes - limit the number of hikes and backpackers, preserve flora, and provide opportunities for solitude and a primitive type of recreation.

On the Grand Mesa - Protection of the watersheds at Kannah Creek and Muddy Country Watershed. Protection of the Mule Park Important Bird Area.

I know this is a huge undertaking and you are hearing from others with differing opinions, but we must protect our areas for their wilderness qualities while we have them. I miss the sound of birds, it is obvious they are declining. And once lost, the solitude and beauty of these areas is gone forever. Please protect them.