

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/23/2021 11:00:00 AM

First name: Catharine

Last name: Pieck

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest's (GMUG) forest plan revision.

The Forest Service must take this opportunity to protect important wildlife, water, and wilderness resources for future generations to come. This foresight will benefit Colorado public lands and the communities that rely on them as climate change alters some of Colorado's most prized landscapes. Specifically, I would like to see the Forest Service target areas with outstanding wilderness-quality and unique values in the forest plan.

Here are specific recommendations:

1) Additional Recommended Wilderness and Special Management Areas

The Forest Service should add the following recommended wildernesses and special management areas to its forest plan:

[bull] Mendicant Ridge Recommended Wilderness (11,279 acres);

[bull] Muddy Country Watershed and Wildlife Conservation Area (61,200 acres);

[bull] Pilot Knob Backcountry Wildlife Conservation Area (24,100 acres);

[bull] Hubbard Park Recommended Wilderness (5,238 acres);

[bull] Lamborn Special Interest Area (14,100 acres); and

[bull] Coal Mountain Recommended Wilderness (15,200 acres).

These areas have high value wildlife habitat, water resources, and wilderness quality. Please add them to the final revised forest plan.

2) Analyze Beneficial Impacts to Wilderness Character, Wildlife Habitat, and Water Resources

In addition to including the six proposed areas in the forest plan, the Forest Service also must analyze the beneficial impacts of protecting these areas. This should include, but not be limited to, benefits to the outstanding wildlife, water, and wilderness resources in these areas that were ignored in the draft environmental impact statement. As you are aware, the GMUG forest plan revision will have long lasting environmental impacts and the impacts to these areas must be rigorously analyzed.