

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/26/2021 7:01:37 PM

First name: Gretchen

Last name: Nicholoff

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I live near the GMUG and use the forest lands for recreation, including hiking, fishing and wildlife viewing which are very important to me and to so many others who use the forest.

I strongly recommend that the Forest Service choose Alternative D as the best option for management for the foreseeable future. Alternative D is the only alternative considered that places appropriate value on wilderness designation. In the face of prolonged drought and rising temperatures, it is critical that we do all we can to mitigate the effects of climate change. I believe that Alternative D comes closest to addressing that pressing need.

The fewer extractive activities, the better the air quality, water quality and wildlife habitat. I am particularly concerned that timber harvests contemplated in other alternatives being considered are far too ambitious. It is true that there is a lot of diseased forest out there, but cutting all of it is clearly impossible, and incentivizing timber operators by including healthy trees with dead or dying trees seems completely wrong to me. Our trees do not grow fast enough, particularly in drought conditions, to meet a sustainable timber harvest contemplated in the alternatives addressed in the draft plan.

It appears to us, having lived near the GMUG for nearly 50 years, that deer and elk populations have suffered over time with the increasing pressures of oil/gas activities, off-road vehicles, and increased numbers of people who want to enjoy the forest. The management alternative chosen needs to address the impacts these activities have on the forest and do the best job possible of mitigating those impacts, including closing roads and monitoring compliance more closely.