

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/26/2021 8:33:24 PM

First name: Bryan

Last name: Miller

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Dear Madams/Sirs

Thank you for affording me this opportunity to comment on the GMUG Forest Plan.

I was born in western Wyoming in 1961 and have spent my entire adult life living on western slope of Colorado enjoying forests of the GMUG where I live, first in Telluride and now in Gunnison.

Frankly stated, I am terrified for the future of these forests I know so well.

My first encounter with the GMUG forests occurred when my forester father, Philip Miller, was surveying the soon-to-be Lizard Head and Sneffels Wilderness in 1976. Unfortunately, I have seen a dramatic degradation of the forests since then, particularly in the last five to ten years. Beyond the pressures of the massive urban development that has occurred adjacent to the GMUG forests, which has strained water, air and wildlife resources, I have seen a dramatic decrease in our snowpack, number of cold days and a general drying out of this land. This is marked by vast swaths of dead forests from sudden aspen decline and beetle and budworm infestations, empty reservoirs and dying streams, and a dramatic lengthening of our wildfire season. In short, we are in the midst of an environmental emergency.

I implore the policy makers who will chart the future of GMUG to do everything they can to avert the environmental cataclysm that is looming for the GMUG. We must act with the utmost urgency:

In order to attempt to save the GMUG forests, policy makers must choose Alternative D which affords the greatest protection to wildlife values. All other choices go nowhere near far enough to ensure adequate protection of our forests.

The Forest Service must designate all rivers and streams within the GMUG that have been found to have (ORV) Outstanding Remarkable Value as Wild and Scenic Rivers and must be offered such protection.

Motorized use of Forest Service roads and trails must be greatly curtailed. Not only are our roads and trails being ruined by over use by motorized vehicles, but we all know that the greatest threat to wildlife values throughout the world is carbon emissions. The Forest Service must do everything in its power to lower the carbon footprint of forest uses.

As a baby boomer, I have had the remarkable privilege to enjoy the GMUG forests while they have been so rich in wildlife values. However, I am sickened by the fact that those values will not exist for those younger than myself, including my daughter. Forest users younger than myself should be extremely angry that their forests are being compromised for profit. As policy makers it is incumbent on you to fight back.

Thank you,
Bryan Miller, Gunnison