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First name: Elizabeth
Last name: Bauer
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Thank you for your efforts in revising the forest plan and considering public comment. I would like to express my support for the proposals for additional protections in new designations of special management and wilderness areas throughout the GMUG that were developed by GPLI, the Community Conservation Proposal, and the CORE Act. I believe the vision for these community-driven initiatives should be reflected in the final forest plan.

I am concerned about the amount of feasible timber the Forest Service is proposing for the new forest plan. The Forest Service is proposing to significantly increase timber production in all of the alternatives for the new forest plan and I believe the GMUG has far more important biological resources on the landscape that need protection than could ever be worth losing for the sake of timber production. I would like to see the amount of acreage of feasible timber areas proposed to be significantly reduced from the draft alternatives in the final forest plan.

I appreciate the efforts the Forest Service has shown to consider the needs of some of the local endangered species, such as the Gunnison sage grouse. I support the concept of Wildlife Management Areas throughout the GMUG but feel the standards for wildlife conservation should be strengthened.

The revision of the GMUG forest plan presents a rare opportunity for the Forest Service to reconsider its standards for methane venting on public lands areas, particularly considering the West Elk coal mine. I would like to see methane mitigations strengthened in the new forest plan.

I also believe there are beautiful natural streams in Crested Butte that should be considered for Wild and Scenic River protections in the final forest plan. Those include the Slate River (from the headwaters to the town of Crested Butte), Daisy Creek (from the headwaters to the Slate River confluence), the East River (from the headwaters to Meanders), the Upper and Lower Taylor River (in Taylor River Canyon), Upper Brush Creek and West Brush Creek tributary, and Cement Creek.

Thank you for your time in considering public comment and designing a new forest plan that reflects the values of the local region.