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First name: Sallie

Last name: Thoreson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have lived in Montrose County for 34+ years. I enjoy hiking, birdwatching and backpacking in the GMUG. I am most interested in quiet, non mechanized recreation. This allows me to see birds and other wildlife, identify and appreciate wildflowers, recharge my mental health, and enjoy the outdoors with small groups of family and friends. My background in Ecology and Public Health leads me to an understanding of the importance of monitoring and evaluation all projects.

In the Monitoring section of the Forest Plan only northern goshawk, sagebrush and beaver are listed as Focal Species "to assess the ecological conditions required under 219.9." There are no explanations or criteria in the Plan on how these species were chosen. I would like to see in the Final Plan/EIS an explanation of how these three species were chosen and why additional species were not chosen. I would like to see the western purple martin be included as a Focal Species in the Monitoring section. The purple martin would provide ecosystem monitoring for late seral or mature aspen, and snags and coarse wood. In addition, based on the importance of wetlands and fens, I would like to see a representative wetland-obligate plant species chosen as a monitoring species.