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Comments: I advocate for Plan D with some significant strengthening of some key components.

With the greatly increased number of users in public lands the need for protected wilderness is of utmost importance. Wilderness is one of the greatest things we can leave for future generations. More heavily protected land undeniably contributes to keeping global climate change in check. We can't keep reducing these acres that are protected. Once they are gone they are gone. I support the 246,000 acres of Special Management Area recommendations in Alternative D as recommended by multiple citizen initiatives. The Wildlife Management Areas are also vital to protecting species diversity and strengthen ecosystems. These areas were agreed upon previously by extensive collaboration from diverse user groups in Gunnison County (GPLI) and those conclusions need to be part of the final plan.

The draft plan also has included far too much land suitable for timber production including steep slopes and Gunnison sage grouse habitat. Those acres should clearly be removed from consideration for timber harvesting. Wild & Scenic river designations are also of vital importance to the bigger picture. I am very concerned that several previously identified rivers were left out of the draft plan and should be kept in the final plan. Those include the Taylor River, Slate River, Daisy Creek (Poverty Gulch), Escalante Creek, Bear Creek, Bridal Veil Creek, and Ingram Falls.