

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/23/2022 11:00:00 AM

First name: Jean

Last name: Naples

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest's (GMUG) forest plan revision. I am writing as an American who strongly supports full protection for the Wilderness Areas in Colorado. I completely urge the Forest Service to please use this opportunity to protect important endangered wildlife, water, and wilderness resources for future generations to come. I support this action because this foresight will benefit Colorado public lands and the communities that rely on them as the climate change disaster crisis alters some of Colorado's most prized landscapes. Specifically, I urge the Forest Service to please target areas with outstanding wilderness-quality and unique values in the forest plan. My specific recommendations include: 1) Additional Recommended Wilderness and Special Management Areas The Forest Service should add the following recommended wildernesses and special management areas to its forest plan: [bull] Mendicant Ridge Recommended Wilderness (11,279 acres); [bull] Muddy Country Watershed and Wildlife Conservation Area (61,200 acres); [bull] Pilot Knob Backcountry Wildlife Conservation Area (24,100 acres); [bull] Hubbard Park Recommended Wilderness (5,238 acres); [bull] Lamborn Special Interest Area (14,100 acres); and [bull] Coal Mountain Recommended Wilderness (15,200 acres). I support these actions because these areas include the presence of high value wildlife habitat, water resources, and wilderness quality. Please add them to the final revised forest plan. 2) Analyze Beneficial Impacts to Wilderness Character, Wildlife Habitat, and Water Resources In addition to including the six proposed areas in the forest plan, I urge the Forest Service to please fully analyze the beneficial impacts of protecting these areas. This should include, but not be limited to, benefits to the outstanding wildlife, water, and wilderness resources in these areas that were ignored in the draft environmental impact statement. At this time, I thank you for your consideration of my letter and recommendations. As you are aware, the GMUG forest plan revision will have long-lasting environmental impacts and the impacts to these areas to ensure full protection for the Wilderness Areas in Colorado must be rigorously analyzed.