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Comments: I am taking advantage of 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. The Forest Service has an opportunity to protect important wildlife, water, and wilderness resources for future generations to come. As a longstanding resident of this region and an avid hiker, hunter and fisherman, I urge the Forest Service to include as much proposed/recommended Wilderness as possible in the forest plan and the DEIS. Wilderness with a capital "W" is a critical management tool for the landscapes and waterways that ensures the health of the overall environment and the wildlife that relies on it. In turn, a healthy forest benefits communities that rely on the many benefits that drive their economies, whether in agriculture or recreation. As someone with friends in the mountain biking and snowmobiling communities, and as someone who occasionally partakes in those activities, I can say with experience that even the most avid bikers and snowmobilers will agree that Wilderness ensures the authentic backcountry experiences they often seek. It is a shared value when discussed in a way that describes the shared experiences in the backcountry. Finally, as climate change alters some of Colorado's most important natural resources, protecting areas with wilderness qualities is a way the Forest Service can "do its part" to participate in the solution. Having communicated with the Wilderness Workshop and other organizations, I would like to add my name in support of the following recommendations to add the following 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). This is not a lot of acreage, but these areas have high-value wildlife habitat and water resources. Please add them to the final revised forest plan. Additionally, I ask that the Forest Service include in the DEIS and ultimately the Forest Plan the direction necessary to analyze the benefits of protecting these areas for their outstanding wildlife, water, and wilderness qualities.