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First name: Amanda

Last name: Hutchinson

Organization: Uinta County Commissioners

Title:

Comments: From: Amanda HutchinsonTo: FS-Comments Intermtn Ashley ForestPlanRevisionSubject: [External Email]Letter From Uinta CountyDate: Thursday, February 17, 2022 9:49:19 AMAttachments: Uinta County Ashley Forest Plan Revision Letter Signed.pdfAmanda HutchinsonUinta County ClerkPO Box 810Evanston, WY 82931amhutchinson@uintacounty.com307-783-0305Uinta County CommissionersStacy AllenAshley Forrest Plan Team Leader355 North Vernal AvenueBRENT HATCH I MARK ANDERSON I ERIC SOUTHVernal, UT 84078 via email: ashleyforestplan@usda.govRE: Comments -Ashley Forest Plan RevisionDear Mrs. Allen:Uinta County, Wyoming has been actively engaged in working with federal, state and county agencies since 1994. Uinta County has expertise in a variety of issues including the socio-economic analyses, which can be beneficial to both the agencies and Uinta County.Uinta County, having been granted "Cooperating Agency" status in the 1990's was actively involved in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest plan revision. Uinta County has also worked closely with Summit County, Utah in developing the "Summit County Resource Management Plan" which was adopted by the Summit County Council on July 12, 2017. Uinta County also worked closely with Summit County during Congressman Rob Bishop's Public Lands Initiative. During this time, Uinta County provided input on both the Ashley National Forest and the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest regarding proposed additions and/or changes to the wilderness areas, roadless areas, big horn Sheep - domestic sheep comingling concerns, and a variety of other issues. Uinta County is also a cooperating agency in the "High Uintas Wilderness Domestic Sheep Analysis" (HUWDSA) for which Uinta County provided the "Socio-economic Analysis" section for this EIS, dated March 12, 2018. This HUWDSA also includes domestic sheep allotments in the Ashley National Forest, where Uinta County has been an active participant in developing strategies to reduce comingling of domestic sheep and big horn sheep.Uinta County amended the "Uinta County Comprehensive Plan" of 2011 to include "Appendix A Public Lands Policy" on February 2, 2016. Also, Uinta County adopted Resolution 94-04 "RESOLUTION AND BINDING ACTION SUPPORTING COUNTY CUSTOM, CULTURE AND HERITAGE IN DECISION MAKING REGARDING FEDERAL LANDS IN AND ADJACENT TO, UINTA COUNTY, STATE OF WYOMING.Uinta County requests that these documents be reviewed and the policies of the Forest Service in the Ashley Forest Plan Revision be coordinated with the public lands policies included in the Uinta County Public Land Policy.You have indicated that you will grant "Cooperating Agency" status to Uinta County, Wyoming. This should have happened at the beginning of the Ashley Forest Plan revision process. Uinta County has submitted the contact persons to be included in the "Cooperating Agency" documents and look forward to working with the Forest Service and providing input in the Ashley Forest Plan revision.In reviewing the draft Ashley Forest Plan revision, we find that the analysis is flawed and biased and in need of major revision. Uinta County is willing to provide you with assistance in the revision of the draft Ashley Forest Plan EIS which is required, before a viable alternative can be selected.Thank you,Eric SouthChairman