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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this visitor use management plan. As a member of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness-Northern San Juan chapter, our membership certainly sees the loving-it-to-death aspect of the area. The Ouray Ranger District Visitor Use Study 2022 shows this clearly in text and graphics.

I have a few comments on the overall scope of the Plan document:

I can not find where the acronym LRMP is defined. It would be helpful to clarify this.

I would like to see some information on how this scoping plan might interface with the Revised Land Management Plan for the GMUG. While this may be somewhat difficult since the plan has not been released, the plan will have impacts on this scoping plan and should be at least mentioned. In particular, the idea of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) should be discussed. While WMAs are not in the current plan, they are a part of alternatives B-D in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Land Management Plan Revision: Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests. The issue of how the FS plans to integrate protection of wildlife and trail density within a visitor use management plan should be discussed.

The Plan mentions that "local tribes will be consulted..." It behooves all of us to start that interaction as soon as possible, and could have been done, perhaps, for this scoping document.

Comments Applicable to All Zones:

Please consider removing any provisions that dogs can be under voice control. It is certainly not my experience that this is possible in wild area such as a National Forest.

In all applicable area, please add the dog feces must be collected and packed out. This is the expectation in urban areas and should exist in heavily used NF areas, given the same health and aesthetic concerns.

Please include wording that toilet paper, as well as human feces, must be packed out. Used toilet paper certainly has the same health and aesthetic concerns as human feces.

For all zones, please provide information and restrictions on dispersed camping, since this is a problem along many areas. At a minimum, dispersed camping should not occur above tree line nor within 100 feet of any water or trail.

Please be specific about the type of food storage. Does this mean bear proof containers or simply lidded containers at campsites?

Specific zone comments

Mt. Sneffels Summit Zone: Please add a bullet prohibit dogs in this area. Mountain summits and fragile alpine areas are no place for dogs.

Blaine Basin Zone: While this area may not have the use and overuse of other areas, there is the potential for this to occur. It is easier to prevent overuse through good management than to remediate overuse after it has occurred. At a minimum, please add a table, like the Mt Sneffels Summit Zone, with Indicators/Threshold/Management Actions to monitor use and overuse of the area.