

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/24/2022 5:54:18 PM

First name: Ian

Last name: Clark

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am pleased to see the USFS pursuing a land exchange for the parcels on Spanish Creek and Sheep Creek. The plan to acquire those creek bottom in holdings will allow a continuation of land management in sensitive riparian areas. Personally the lands around Crested Butte have very little interest to me and are of low value due to current area development, over recreation use, and tree stands with little diversity besides mature spruce/fir. Mean while I am amazed at some of the diversity with the stands of trees down in Saguache county. While some areas are predominantly lodge pole up high, I have been in areas where there are aspen, lodge pole, bristle cone pine, limber pine, and spruce/fir all on the same ridge. I just can't find that diversity in the Gunnison basin, especially considering limber pine.

This brings me to an additional concern not related to the scope of this land exchange comment. I understand the Spruce removal down in the Cochetope country and around Lake City, but I do not understand the re-vegetation efforts being Spruce. What an opportunity to bring additional diversity to those forest considering the potential for climate change in the future. I think some of the tree stands around Brewery Creek would be a perfect example of the diversity of trees that might survive the challenges of the future.