

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 7:58:07 PM

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Comments: As long term residents of Colorado on the West Slope in a rural area near Grand Junction. We have had over the years knowledge and experience on Federal BLM and Forest Service lands in our area. It is clear that the degradation of old growth forests has accelerated for varied reasons and is getting worse witness the latest fires impacting our area. Drought and climate warming are devastating our open space Federal lands and especially what is left of our Old Growth Forests and MUCH MORE MUST BE DONE TO PROTECT AND ACTUALLY ALLOW THESE PRISTINE AND IMPORTANT FORESTS TO EXPAND BACK INTO THEIR OLD RANGE. They are crucial as carbon sinks as well as their cooling and stabilizing influence on our impacted natural lands. Those considerations are far more important than a trend toward short term forestry and clearing of these lands for the economic benefit of a few over the public need of the many.