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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Plan revision - lands suitable for wilderness consideration

Thank you for your letter of November 4 inviting comments on lands to evaluate for potential wilderness consideration.

Please refer to our comments (by e-mail on July 25, 2014) regarding pages 194-195 of the Assessment Report, where we identified IRAs #2, #3, #5, and #7 as areas that we anticipate reviewing and commenting upon as the inventory and evaluation proceeds.

We wish to correct a mistake, relating to the Magdalena Ranger District, in the earlier comment. Our concern here relates to the possible realignment of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail near the scenic Sawtooth Mountains (as acknowledged on page 228 of the Assessment Report). We had identified IRA (#7) as being of interest to us, but a review of the maps indicates that IRA #6 (Madre Mountain) is more likely to encompass a portion of the realignment. Accordingly, we should add #6 to the list of areas that we anticipate reviewing for wilderness designation later in the planning process.

We note that IRA #6 appears to fall within an area for which the visual quality objective appears to be Maximum Modification. So long as the relocation of the CDNST through the Sawtooth Mountains remains a possibility, the prospective trail corridor should have a VQO of Retention.

Continental Divide Trail Society

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[I am relying on the IRA map in the Assessment Report. I was unable to use the online map because the map itself was covered by a large "Legend" box that I could not move or close.]

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