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First name: Cori
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: November 20, 2021

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest

2250 South Main Street

Delta, CO 81416

Re: Comment on Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison Forest Plan Revision #51806

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to comment on the Draft Forest Plan for the Grand Mesa, Umcompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests. Specifically, we are concerned that Alternatives B and C have designated the area on the east side of Forest Service Road 706 as Suitable for Timber Production. The attached details of the Alternative B and C Timber Suitability Maps show the area we are referencing.

Since 1967, our families have had special use permits to build, use, and occupy three primitive cabins in the Trout Creek Summer Home Group, which spans the east and west sides of Forest Service Road 706. Our cabins are numbers 1575, 1390, and 1400 in the attached satellite image, and two of them are in the area designated as Suitable for Timber Production.

For the past 55 summers, we have spent a lot of time in this area, hiking, hunting for mushrooms, identifying flowers, and being pleasantly surprised by the number of wildlife we've seen. It's a special place that is increasingly rare. Out of cell range and free from utility wires, people like us have visited the area for recreation, hunting and fishing, and, of course, to enjoy its natural beauty. Commercial timber production is simply not compatible with this kind of use.

It is not only our families who would be impacted by commercial timber production. The area is visited by many people who come to experience its extraordinary beauty. Forest Service Road 706 is a short spur off the West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway. At the end of the road, Lost Lake Campground, with East Beckwith as its stunning backdrop, has seen more and more day and overnight visitors every year. These are people who are

leaving developed areas - and, in the summer at least, escaping the heat at lower elevations - to fish, camp, paddle board, horseback ride, hike the Three Lakes Loop, and introduce their children to nature. In addition to the campground, there are dispersed campsites all along Forest Service Road 706 that also accommodate the many summer and fall visitors. The experiences of all of these people would be severely compromised if commercial timber production were allowed in the area.

For the above reasons, we strongly believe that the area east of Forest Service Road 706 is not appropriate for commercial timber production, and we request that you remove it from the list of areas so designated in Alternatives B and C.

Sincerely,

Cori Sutherland

Bill & Veronica Sutherland

Jason Sutherland

Julie Hohenemser

Lisa Hohenemser

Anne Hohenemser