**Comment Now on GMUG Draft Forest Plan**

The Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison National Forest released its draft forest plan and draft Environmental Impact Statement on August 13, which opened the 90-day comment period. The forest plan, which guides the management direction of over 3 million acres of national forest in our region (including public lands in Ouray County,) has not seen a formal revision since 1983!!! Few members of the public attended the virtual Ouray District open house recently, and there’s not been a lot of press about these important documents and what they mean for residents and visitors of Ouray County. Hunters, wildlife watchers, hikers, ranchers, anglers, equestrians, 4-wheelers, outfitters, and cyclists, this is your chance to influence the direction of forest management for decades to come. If it takes another 40 years for a future revision, I, for one, won’t be around for the next one, so now is the time! To that end, Great Old Broads for Wilderness is hosting an informational session and comment-writing workshop on Monday, October 4 from 1pm to 3pm during our regular monthly meeting. We’ll meet outdoors at the new pavilion at Frontier Field in Ridgway (aka the soccer field/baseball diamond) with ample parking at the lot accessed from CR 23. There’s plenty of picnic tables to spread out, but please bring a mask in case you choose to sit with others. Bring your laptops or favorite pen and paper if you prefer, and rest assured we’ll provide resources about the plan, what constitutes valuable comments, and some of our priorities. We’ll provide writing materials also. In keeping with Broads’ mission, our workshop will focus mostly on protecting wild lands, watersheds, wildlife habitat, and sensitive species, but there’s opportunities to comment on grazing, recreation, suitable timber acreage and more. You can learn more about the plan at [http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/DraftForestPlan](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/DraftForestPlan" \t "_blank). If you can’t make the October 4 workshop, you can still submit comments at the website mentioned above and feel free to contact us at [northernsanjuanbroadband@gmail.com](mailto:northernsanjuanbroadband@gmail.com) for guidance or more information. See also our ad in this week’s paper! Remember you need not be old or great or female – only bold for public lands – to participate to participate in Broads activities! Everyone is welcome. We hope to see you on the 4th.

Robyn Cascade

Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Ridgway