

Date submitted (UTC): 4/7/2015 3:37:57 PM

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Comments:

In regards, to Colorado Roadless Coal Exception #46470, I am opposed to allowing temporary (or permanent) roads built in this region. There are several reasons for my objection, which I list below:

1) Expansion of coal mining continues to affect our health and environment. Burning of coal is one of the root causes of many health problems in both humans and plants and animals. In the US, we often make comments about China's air quality, when much of their air quality problems stem from coal mining. Is that what we want for our future air quality?

2) Even if we would not burn the coal here in the US, coal emissions are one of the root causes of CO2 build-up in the atmosphere. And virtually all scientists agree that increasing CO2 in the atmosphere will continue to cause more and more environmental and climatological issues, including but not limited to global climate change. The argument that we need the jobs is false. We can create even more jobs, and often higher-paying ones, by building solar panels, wind turbines, grid storage technologies, etc.

3) I am an avid outdoorsman, and have been elk and deer hunting in that part of the state for approximately 25 years. I enjoy hunting where there are few roads, and thus fewer people. After I moved from Colorado in 2000, I continue to return nearly every year, pay the \$550+ for an out-of-state license, and archery hunt ON FOOT in some of the most beautiful lands in the state (including Grand Mesa and the West Elk Wilderness Area, which are both near the proposed modified Roadless Area). Every year it gets harder and harder to find elk on public land, and even more difficult to find them within a few miles of roads. Increasing the density of roads will only serve to make wildlife even less accessible to the average hunter. At this trend, the state will eventually only serve rich hunters who can afford to pay many thousands of dollars to hunt on private land with "captive" elk populations. Allowing more roads in a specifically-designated roadless area only serves to accelerate the privatization of hunting and driving the common hunter out of the picture. We ARE the stewards of the land, paying for it's use and sustenance through our license fees, and as an out-of-stater, I feel I pay more than my fair share and my voice should be heard.