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As a participant in many of the meetings and comment periods leading up to the national and state roadless rules on our public lands I remain keenly interested in its implementation. The project this SEIS is addressing is exactly what many of us feared when Colorado chose to follow its own path in contrast with the national standards. Furthermore, given all we have learned about human climate disruption over the past decade, the despoilment of nearly 20,000 roadless acres at the bequest of Arch Coal is a particularly egregious management action.

Not only will this result in the immediate loss of quality habitat for wildlife and native vegetation, it will also lead to the release of untold amounts of carbon and other emissions we now know threaten the health of living systems across the earth. While issues of the local economy will no doubt be invoked as rationale for this decision, these must be weighed against the economic loss resulting from the ensuing despoilment and its impacts on the hunting and fishing economies, as well as numerous other factors affecting the quality of life of local citizens in the North Fork region of central Colorado.

I respectfully urge the U.S. Forest Service to select the no-action alternative. This is clearly a case where it is prudent, and correct, to let nature be.

Thank you for your consideration.

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