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Comments:

Dear Daniel Jiron,

Please accept this comment as a recommendation to reinstate the North Fork Coal Mining Area exception of the Colorado Roadless Rule.

I'm an active user of the National Forest lands and enjoy hiking, mountain biking, fishing and hunting in the areas of consideration. I know the area well and am familiar with the environmental impact associated with drill roads and pads. After drill pads and access roads are reclaimed the area is considered habitat improvement when compared to the oak brush that originally covered the area.

The area under consideration has been labeled or listed as 'roadless' under false pretense. That area has seen heavy equipment and road use in the past. Tens of years ago the local area ranchers built stock ponds in the area with dozers and other heavy equipment. The current condition of the land is what the land will look like in the future after coal mining in the area has run its course. 20 years after reclamation is complete, forest users won't be able to tell the mine operator was ever there.

Your efforts to reinstate the North Fork Coal Mining Area exception is appreciated and should move forward in earnest.

Sincere regards.

Art Etter