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Comments:

I am opposed to the Coal carve out for the following reasons:

Roadless areas in Colorado are lower elevation than wilderness, meaning roadless areas provide a greater level of biomass and biodiversity potential.

Surface vents and temporary road construction will eliminate the wild character of the land, and will also diminish its wildlife habitat capability.

Third, climate change indicates that our continued reliance on fossil fuels, and especially coal, which burns dirtier than any alternative except wood, or possibly dung, is suicidal. Additionally, the agency is mandated to provide a carbon accounting of the decision landscape prior to approval.

Fourth, this decision has the potential to set a precedent for future decisions involving resources that may underlay a Colorado Roadless Area. I request the agency initiate an inventory to determine the extent that this potential exist on Colorado, and to utilize a biodiversity/connectivity prioritization scheme to guide decisions concerning exceptions of this kind.

Thanks for the chance to comment,

Sandy Shea  
Board Member  
HCCA