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Comments:

Please keep the Roadless Rule in place for the North Fork Coal Mining Area.

The proposed action of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service to scope for a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement to reinstate the North Fork Coal Mining Area exception is not in the best long term benefit of the state of Colorado, its residents and the future economic prosperity of the state of Colorado.

Jobs & Economics:

The state's economy is ever shifting to outdoor tourism, and will continue to do so in the future. The wilderness at issue for this proposed action needs to be seen as a resource just as valuable as coal and gas. An economy based on to outdoor tourism will sustain jobs far after the coal is exhausted.

Environment & Legacy:

The world simply does not need any more coal or hydrocarbons released into the environment. With today's quickly changing values taking the side of industry is a slippery slope. A hero one day is a pariah the next. For example the hunters employed by the rail Roads to hunt the Buffalo are a shining example of lack of foresight. To allow further egress of roads into the North Fork wilderness will be just as shortsighted.

We all (citizens and representatives) will be remembered for the actions we take on issues like this. I grew up in Colorado, and own multiple properties there. I am strongly opposed to the opening of this wilderness to industry. It destroys at once both our heritage and future economy.

I urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service to not allow our nation's irreplaceable wilderness to be thrown away for short term gain of a few years of coal.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Robert Coon