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First name: Niel C.

Last name: Nostrand

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 6300 Minnesota Creek Rd

Address2:

City: Paonia

State: CO

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 81428

Country: United States

Email:

Phone:

Comments:

Colorado Roadless Rule

7 40 Simms St.

Golden Colorado 80401

Attention: Daniel J. Jiron

April 27, 2015

RE: File Coode 50

This letter is in response to yours dated April 1, 2015, regarding pending action on the Colorado Roadless Rule.

I am a rancher. I am not an environmentalist, my politics are conservative. I am probusiness and jobs, and am generally supportive of well-located and properly conceived domestic energy programs. However, I am wholly against the reinstatement of the North Fork Coal mining exception.

The Roadless Rule was originally implemented for obvious good reason. It becomes meaningless when exceptions are allowed. I am particularly concerned that Sunset Trail, included in the Roadless boundaries, could again be subject to effective ruin. Drill pads, new roads, dust, noise and activity would decimate the pristine beauty of this Mt. Gunnison landscape, and would surely sacrifice the abundant elk and deer population that this area currently hosts. The increasing depth of the MDW' s that would be required as mining moves south under Sunset Trail would produce copious amounts of methane, polluting the atmosphere at even greater levels.

Protecting Sunset Trail is the epitome of the Roadless Rule rationale. I strongly recommend that the responsible official select the No Action Alternative.

Yours truly,