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Comments:

I write regarding the exception granted in 2012 to the Colorado Roadless Rule of 19,700 acres of roadless area known as the North Fork Coal Mining Area. I understand that this exception is now open for reinstatement and comment as to the desirability of allowing coal mining operations, including roads, within the North Fork Area. My position is that roadless areas within either BLM or National Forest areas should remain roadless, and especially so with regard to mining operations of any kind. The destruction of wilderness habitats for other creatures by coal mining and the removal of its product from the area, either by truck or train, is certain to be the result, and open-pit mining is certain to disturb further habitats within this area. Secondly, encouraging coal mining at a time when global climate change resulting from the burning of coal and other fossil fuels is reaching epic proportions and threatens human health and life flies in the face of reason and best practices at this time in our history, and runs counter to the wishes of a majority of people and the present federal administration's hopes to lead by example by keeping more fossil fuels in the ground. Coal harvesting should not be encouraged under any circumstances, especially in response to any coal company's particular wishes. These lands belong to the People of the United States, and should not be compromised by allowing the extraction of coal and all the infrastructure required to do so.