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Comments:

Proposing to reinstate the North Fork Coal Mining Area exception is a massive giveaway to the coal industry and undercuts the U.S.'s commitment to reducing climate pollution at a time when the use of coal is declining. Mining for dirty coal in this area will release huge amounts of methane and destroy pristine wildlife habitat next to a wilderness area.

Lifting protections on our public lands to prop up bankrupt coal companies is really bad policy. The USFW needs to understand that Americans are sick and tired of the destructive coal industry and don't want to shoulder the debt of Arch Coal so they can trash our forests and our climate.

This is a huge step backward for the Obama administration. Why does the USFW want to undermine President Obama's climate objectives and sacrifice public lands just to prop up one failing coal company? The federal coal program is completely out of step with the rest of the Obama administration when it comes to climate.

We should be moving forward to clean, renewable energy, but this disastrous plan keeps us tied to more fossil fuels. The President needs to prevent this from going forward since our public lands should be part of the solution, not the problem.

These roadless areas provide vital habitat for many of the wildlife species in CO including the federally threatened Canada lynx. Allowing these areas to be decimated to appease the interests of the coal industry is horrible public lands management and will destroy this important ecosystem forever.

Americans have supported the landmark Roadless Rule to protect our wild forests for decades. No industry should be given special exemptions from these protections, least of all dirty coal, which we all know is one of the major contributors to climate change as it fouls our air and waterways, destroying our communities and peoples' health.

This proposal would open the forest to intense development and destroy thousands of acres of vital habitat for black bear, lynx, elk and mule deer. Coal mining creates noise, pollution, destroys habitat, fragments landscapes all which are detrimental for wildlife and ruins the area for hunters, hikers, bird-watchers and people wanting to get away from it all.

Reinstating the North Fork Coal Mining Area exception of the Colorado Roadless Rule will increase the affects from climate change on Colorado's backcountry. Therefore, the Forest Service should focus on keeping this special place intact and not slice it up which will exacerbate climate change, all for the benefit of the bankrupt Arch Coal company.