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First name: Neal

Last name: Schwieterman

Organization: Town of Paonia, CO

Title: Mayor

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: PO Box 460

Address2: 214 Grand Ave

City: Paonia

State: CO

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 81428

Country: United States

Email: mayor@townofpaonia.com

Phone: 970-527-4101

Comments:

The Town of Paonia, via the minutes of the November 24, 2015 officially supports the Preferred Alternative detailed in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to reinstate the North Fork Coal Mining Area exception of the Colorado Roadless Rule.

The Town supports the Preferred Alternative for two(2)specific reasons as follows:

The original North Fork Coal Mining exception area was the result of a multi-year collaborative effort between industry, environmental groups,local governmental groups as well as interested citizens. The Town feels that that collaborative outcome remains valid and should be retained as an outcome of this process.

While currently diminished, the coal mining in the North Fork area of Colorado continues to be a significant economic driver for the entire region. The mining jobs are among the highest paying jobs in the region and each job has a positive ripple effect through out the area.

In conclusion, for the above listed reasons, the Town of Paonia supports the Preferred Alternative as listed in the SEIS.