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Comments:

Colorado Wildlife Federation was one of the conservation groups that agreed to the coal exception in the context of many other issues, such as creating top tier roadless areas. At this juncture, we are concerned that Arch, having filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy, might not have the capability to reclaim the temporary roads in the future. This reclamation is an integral component of the coal exception. We request the Forest Service to thoroughly consider whether the company will be able to meet this essential requirement. If the Forest Service cannot impose adequate protections to ensure this requirement will be satisfied, then we must urge strongly that the coal exception not be reinstated. Remember this is valuable wildlife habitat in an important roadless area.

Thank you.

Suzanne O'Neill, Executive Director, Colorado Wildlife Federation