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Comments:

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am writing in opposition to the proposal to re-open the loophole to the Colorado Roadless Rule that would allow some of our most pristine national forest to be turned into an energy sacrifice zone. The loophole only serves to benefit Arch Coal at the expense of our air, water, wildlife and climate. Letting Arch Coal expand what is already one of the dirtiest coal mines in our nation at the expense of thousands of acres of roadless forest and a safe climate future is unconscionable. The loophole would give Arch Coal access to 170 million tons of coal and result in nearly 500 million tons of carbon pollution, costing our economy \$13 billion in environmental damages. The environmental and climate costs are way too high.

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service is to "sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." Nowhere in that mission does it say the U.S. Forest Service is responsible to protect the profits of coal companies at the expense of national forests that belong to the American people. To fulfill your mission, the only place for dirty sources of energy like coal is in the ground. President Obama himself, in accord with climate scientists, stated that to avoid the worst consequences of climate disruption, some fossil fuels must be kept in the ground. The best place to start doing so is on the lands and waters that belong to the American people. Let's keep coal in the ground and carbon pollution out of our atmosphere. Please, reject the Arch Coal Loophole to the Colorado Roadless Rule.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

32,989 members of Friends of the Earth