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Comments:

Dear USDA,

I am writing to voice support for protecting three pristine roadless areas in Gunnison County, Colorado, (Sunset, Flatirons and Pilot Knob) from coal mining and associated road-building activity. I support the No Action Alternative. The Forest Service's Proposed Action to gut the Colorado Roadless Rule by opening up 19,700 acres of roadless forest in Gunnison County to coal mining should be rejected.

The Proposed Action should be rejected because it would degrade sensitive roadless lands, worsen climate change, hobble renewable energy generation, and result in billions of dollars of damage to the global environment and economy, all while likely benefiting only a single corporation: Arch Coal.

Mining the coal at issue could result in displacing a total of 40,000 gigawatt hours of renewable energy from the grid over a 38-year period, and could cause up to \$12 billion in costs to the world economy.

The Forest Service has an obligation to disclose the impact of methane pollution on the environment by including the social cost of methane in its analysis.

The Forest Service should address the foreseeable impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat. Species found in and around the North Fork Coal Area include elk, mule deer, black bear, mountain lion, wild turkey, Canada lynx, and greenback cutthroat trout, a federally-threatened species.

The Forest Service needs to consider a range of reasonable alternatives, including an alternative that protects the Pilot Knob Roadless Area, and alternatives that reduce methane and climate pollution resulting from the decision.

Please protect these special places, and the recreational opportunities they represent, of future generations.

Sincerely,

Sam Bass