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Comments:

Dear Forest Service,

Our national forests are a huge part of what makes living here in Colorado so great. They are why I have stayed here throughout my longish life thus far.

More importantly, the service these land provide for us in terms of oxygen production, wildlife refuge, carbon sink, water cleaning plant, aquifer and so much more are of absolute necessity to vast areas around the boundaries of the forests themselves; read; Los Angeles and Las Vegas, for starters.

We need to do everything within our power to protect Colorado's forests, not to exploit them. In light of this fact, expanding coal mining operations onto our pristine National Forests such as this one, by utilizing a sneaky loophole in the Colorado Roadless Rule, is extraordinarily counterproductive to Colorado's best interests, and is the very epitome of poor judgement and indeed hubris..

Moreover, President Obama has just signed on to binding international commitments to keep our resources such as coal in the ground. I submit that flaunting disregard for international fossil-fuel agreements and destroying our National Forests for the sole purpose of fossil fuel extraction seems to me to be a dangerous and unnecessary road to follow - particularly in a decreed roadless area (a stab at humor here, if you'll forgive me).

I vehemently oppose the proposed amendment, and urge adoption of the "no action" alternative. Thank you.