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Comments:

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Dear U.S. Forest Service,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

I am writing to you today as both a Colorado resident and the Mayor of Boulder to respectfully urge you to reject the proposed coal mining exception to the Colorado Roadless Rule.

I believe climate change is THE issue of our time, and that we must take urgent action to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and move beyond fossil fuels as expeditiously as possible. Already we are feeling its impacts here in Colorado through more frequent and intense droughts and wildfire, and extreme weather events such as Boulder's devastating flood in September 2013. It is imperative that we significantly and immediately decrease fossil fuel emissions - both CO2 and methane - in order to avoid more severe climate impacts. Reducing emissions has been a prime focus of the City of Boulder for over a decade, and we hope the Forest Service similarly sees addressing climate change as a top priority.

Allowing expansion of the Arch Coal mine would have significant climate impacts, including:

? The addition of 130 million tons of CO2 to the atmosphere over a 10 to 30 year period, about the same amount as all the CO2 emissions from all human activities in Colorado in a year;

? The addition of 170 million tons of coal into the marketplace -- enough to displace 40,000 gigawatt hours of clean, renewable energy;

? A ventilation system that would release more methane into the air than is saved by the entire Colorado oil and gas methane rule (which is significant since methane is 86 times more damaging to our climate than carbon dioxide over a 20 year period); and

? Up to \$13 billions of dollars in damages to the world's economy and environment.

In addition, this proposal would allow nearly 70 miles of new roads to be constructed into the pristine roadless forests in the North Fork Valley, degrading important wildlife habitat and recreational wilderness areas.

Now that the impacts of allowing the Arch Coal expansion are known, the Forest Service is obligated to take action to prevent this expansion from moving forward. This proposal is counter to the critical goal of cutting U.S. carbon emissions by 26 percent in 10 years as well as the president's goal of reducing emissions from federal agencies by 40 percent in the same time period. President Obama and climate scientists agree that to avoid raising global temperatures more than 2 degrees C above pre-industrial levels, we must keep 80% of the world's known fossil fuel reserves in the ground.

For all of these compelling reasons, please keep the Colorado Roadless Rule intact and reject this coal mining exception.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Jones

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