

Date submitted (UTC): 1/15/2016 1:09:40 AM

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Withdraw Plan to Allow Coal Mining in Protected Roadless Areas RE: Rulemaking for Colorado Roadless Areas - Supplemental #46470

Re: Withdraw Plan to Allow Coal Mining in Protected Roadless Areas RE: Rulemaking for Colorado Roadless Areas - Supplemental #46470

Dear U.S. Forest Service - Ken Tu,

Dear U.S. Forest Service, I am writing to urge you to withdraw your proposal to open a loophole for coal mining in the Colorado Roadless Rule. Doing so will benefit Arch Coal, but does not serve the best interests of the American people. Expanding Arch Coal's mine would provide access to 170 million tons of coal with the potential to release up to 486 million tons of carbon pollution. In fact, your own analysis found that this carbon pollution could cause up to \$13 billion in damage to the world's economy and environment. In addition, the existing mine already releases millions of cubic feet of methane -- which is 86 times more damaging to our climate than carbon dioxide over a 20 year period -- directly into our atmosphere every day. Expanding the mine and building new methane well pads would exacerbate the damage. This plan is dangerously out of step with the critical goal of cutting U.S. carbon emissions by 26 percent in ten years as well as the president's goal of reducing emissions from federal agencies by 40 percent in the same time period. This loophole would also set the stage for up to 72 miles of road being bulldozed on 30 square miles of roadless forest, degrading wildlife habitat and recreational wilderness areas. Please protect our climate and this beautiful roadless forest by rejecting the coal mining loophole to the Colorado Roadless Rule. President Obama and climate scientists agree that to avoid raising global temperatures more than 2 degrees C above pre-industrial levels which would result in devastating climate impacts, we must keep 80% of the world's known fossil fuel reserves in the ground. The Forest Service should draw the line here, where mining coal will spew huge amounts of methane and destroy one of our nation's most prized forests. Please keep the Colorado Roadless Rule as it is. Reject the coal mining loophole. Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Nova Covington

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Constituent

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