Bobbie Lucero

Subject: FW: Support of Colorado Roadless Rule
Attachments: Hickenlooper Letter 11.28.11.pdf; usf-Promise-Ad-400.jpg

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From: Jim Kiger [mailto:Jim.Kiger@OXBOW.COM]
Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2011 2:18 PM
To: Matthew Birnie; Paula Swenson; Hap Channell; Phil Chamberland
Cc: Jim Cooper; Mike Ludlow; Bruce Hovde
Subject: Support of Colorado Roadless Rule

Greetings Matthew and Commissioners:

Please see the attached letter from CMA encouraging the Governor to continue the support of the Colorado Roadless Rule. We have also attached an advertisement from the various environmental groups mounting a vigorous campaign of opposition to the Colorado Roadless Rule.

As you know, access to proposed CRA's are critical to the future of coal mining in Delta County and Gunnison County. Oxbow has a portion of our State Mining and Reclamation Permit Area and Federal Coal lease located within the Springhouse Park IRA and the outcome of the Colorado Roadless Rule will directly affect our mining operation.

We have discussed the issue with the Delta County Commissioners and they have graciously offered their continued support of the Colorado Roadless Rule and have indicated they will likewise follow-up with a letter of support to the Governor.

May we suggest that Gunnison County consider sending a letter to the Governor encouraging his continued support of the Colorado Roadless Rule. Oxbow personnel would be pleased to discuss the issues further with Gunnison County Officials if so requested.

Regards

James A. Kiger
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THE COLORADO MINING ASSOCIATION

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November 28, 2011

Honorable John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
State Capitol
200 East Colfax
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

The Colorado Mining Association thanks you and the Department of Natural Resources for your continuing support of the Colorado Roadless Rule. The rule acknowledges the importance of balanced land management policies for Forest Service lands in Colorado. And, has been reiterated so many times, these areas are not "roadless." The lands bear evidence to numerous surface uses, including roads, over the past century.

Under the proposed Colorado Roadless Rule, the North Fork Coal Mining Area allows temporary road building on approximately 20,000 acres of out of 4.1 million acres to be managed as roadless. The North Fork Coal Mining Area (which we believe should also include Currant Creek) allows exploration and underground coal mining to continue as well as providing surface access necessary to provide ventilation from the mines for safety of the miners. When mining ceases, temporary roads will be decommissioned and reclaimed. Because of the economic importance of mines already existing in the North Fork Coal Mining Area and the necessity of allowing those mines to expand beyond their current leases, the Colorado Roadless Rule will be an invaluable tool to continue multiple use management in furtherance of Forest Service goals.

It has been pointed out that development of the Colorado Roadless Rule offered the opportunity to gain new knowledge of the affected areas in Colorado's National Forests. The improved knowledge base and updated maps offer the opportunity to provide a management plan specifically tailored to Colorado's needs, values, and the condition of the forests. The Colorado Roadless Rule has been supported by two previous state administrations, those of Governors Owens and Ritter. We urge your continued support.

Sincerely,

Stuart A. Sanderson
President

cc: Douglas Young
Mike King

President Obama, please...

Keep Your Promise

and protect Colorado's national forests.

Dear Mr. President:

In a major victory for the environment, the Denver-based Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals has unanimously affirmed the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which protects some of America's most prized and sensitive public lands from industrial development and degradation. Now we are asking you to enforce this rule, as you promised in 2008, and reject a proposed exemption for national forests in Colorado.

Colorado's national forest roadless areas provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife and clean drinking water for millions, while also supporting the state's $10 billion outdoor recreation industry. Yet your administration is considering a plan that would open up many of these areas to new drilling, expanded logging, and coal mining.

Colorado's national forests deserve the full protection of the national roadless rule, and nothing less.

Enforce the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

Colorado Environmental Coalition

Colorado Mountain Club

Earthjustice

High Country Citizens Alliance

Pew Environment Group

Rocky Mountain Wild

San Juan Citizens Alliance

Sheep Mountain Alliance

Sierra Club

Western Colorado Congress

Wilderness Workshop

The Wilderness Society