Katherine Haase

From: David Baumgarten
Sent: Saturday, May 09, 2015 3:16 PM
To: Paula Swenson; Phil Chamberland; Jonathan Houck; Matthew Birnie; Russ Forrest
Cc: Katherine Haase; Rachel Magruder
Subject: FW: North Fork Coal Mining Area; DEIS
Attachments: North Fork Coal Mining Area - Scoping Letter.docx

Good afternoon all: The BOCC has on its Tuesday agenda an item regarding potential correspondence from the BOCC responding to the initiation by the USFS of a scoping for a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement to reinstate the North Fork Coal Mining Area exception of the Colorado Roadless Rule. This specific exception would allow for "temporary road construction for coal exploration and/or coal-related surface activities in a 19,100 acre area defined as the North Fork Coal Mining Area."

The "notice of intent" requesting scoping comments states that the proposed action is "to reinstate the North Fork Coal Mining Area exception . . . In addition, the Forest Service is proposing to administratively correct the North Fork Coal Mining Area boundary to remedy clerical errors." The only alternative being considered is "the no-action alternative, which is the continuation of current management (in which) the North Fork Coal Mining Area is being managed the same as other non-upper tier Colorado Roadless Areas."

I have reviewed previous correspondence to and from the BOCC – particularly correspondence addressing adoption of the initial Colorado Roadless Rule. I believe Katherine already has placed this correspondence in your packet. I am not finding BOCC correspondence specific to the North Fork Coal Mining Area exception.

The draft letter attached to this email is a synthesis of earlier BOCC correspondence to the Forest Service, and my attempt to be consistent with that earlier BOCC correspondence.

Please remember that BOCC scoping comments are due 45 days from the publication of the "notice of intent" in the Federal Register which was April 7. My calculation is a due date of no later than May 21.

Thanks! db

May 12, 2015

Colorado Roadless Rule
740 Simms Street
Golden, CO 80401

Sent Via: U.S. Mail First Class; and Fax No: 303-275-5134; and E-mail: https://cara.ecosystem-Management.org/PublicCommentInput?/Project=46470

RE: Scoping for Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS") to Reinstate the North Fork Coal Mining Area Exception of the Colorado Roadless Rule

To Whom It May Concern:

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of Gunnison, Colorado respectfully submits the following scoping comments regarding the proposed Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement to Reinstate the North Fork Coal Mining Area Exception of the Colorado Roadless Rule ("DEIS").

Gunnison County has designated the North Fork Valley Coal Resource Special Area and has adopted the Coal Resource Special Area Coal Mining Regulations. In those regulations, Gunnison County recognizes that coal is a resource valuable to the United States, Colorado and Gunnison County that deserves to be extracted and put to use.

Gunnison County has consistently supported exploring options to recover methane from active and inactive coal mines and has urged that access to these sites be considered in crafting the Colorado Roadless Rule.

Gunnison County has also stated, in correspondence dates May 4, 2012 to then Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack regarding the Colorado Roadless Rule, that "(w)hile coal mining is vital to Gunnison County, we must balance the equation by also considering recreational tourism as it is our primary economy. In order to ensure the continued viability of our tourism economy, it will be imperative to keep currently undeveloped roadless areas free from industrial uses."

We respectfully support analysis in the DEIS of impacts that reinstatement of the North Fork Coal Mining Area exception of the Colorado Roadless Rule allowing for temporary road construction for coal exploration and/or coal-related surface activities would have on the:

- Viability of the coal mining industry in the North Fork;
- Opportunities to recover methane from active and inactive coal mines;
- Quantity and quality of recreational tourism in the North Fork Coal Mining Area.

We appreciate your consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO

By:_____	By:_____	By:_____
Paula Swenson	Phil Chamberland	Jonathan Houck
Chairperson	Vice Chairperson	Commissioners