Katherine Haase

From: Tom Zieber <tomzieber@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2015 7:10 AM
To: BOCC
Subject: Colorado Roadless Rule Coal Exception #46470

To the Gunnison County Commissioners:

I am taking time out of my morning to write to you about the proposal to open up some of our roadless lands. I would rather address this in person at the Board of County Commissioners meeting on May 12, but I do have to work.

I live in Gunnison County for, among other things, the fresh air, clean and clear water and healthy ecosystems - ecosystems that provide not only recreational opportunities for residents like myself but draw visitors to our region that create jobs that are sustainable.

These roadless areas are becoming more and more scarce over time due to the continued conversion of them into industrial sites. The forest is home to wildlife that is part of our natural heritage. The forest also cleans the air of pollution and is vital to soaking up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. As you may know, carbon dioxide derived from man-made sources may be causing global climate change.

This proposal is doubly damning in that not only will the forest destroyed by unable to contribute to solving our climate woes but the coal mined from this site will, once burned, unleash millions of tons of carbon pollution into the atmosphere further exacerbating the crisis we and the future generations of unborn will face.

This area is special to me. I do not want to see it destroyed so as to enrich far away people when its preservation will benefit locals like myself. For these reasons, I implore you to do all within your powers to put a halt to this egregious public lands give away.

Sincerely,
Thomas F. Zieber
209 S. Colorado St.
Gunnison, CO 81230