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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wilderness in the Gunnison Basin

To Whom it May Concern:

With this email, I am advocating for the study and evaluation of an area called the Granite Basin/Cement Mountain as potential Wilderness designation. Twice I have hiked from Aspen to Crested Butte and several times have driven over Kebler Pass from Carbondale, CO to Crested Butte and back. I have also explored Black Canyon in the Gunnison area by car which I believe also rests in the Granite Basin area. While I live in Michigan most of the year, I have spent a number of years exploring this area of Colorado mostly in the summer and fall months. I keep coming back to Colorado every year largely because it gives me a number of ways that I can experience nature that are not available in the state of Michigan where I have lived all my life. While I have traveled the world, I find the Rocky Mountains to be of exceptional beauty and serenity that I've not found anywhere else. The ride over to Crested Butte is particularly beautiful in the fall but my favorite way to explore the area is by hiking. When I have used the West Maroon trail, I have found very few, if any, other hikers...and the abundance of wildflowers in July, or even early August, is breathtaking. When I return to Michigan, I find myself caught up in the stresses of life here...and while we certainly have parks and green spaces which are relatively abundant, I don't find the majesty of the mountains which is what I particularly love about Colorado.

Here is a photo from one of my Crested Butte hikes. If you would like to contact me, I'd be happy to talk to you about my background and interest in helping in any way I can to have the Forest Service consider setting aside the Granite Basin/Cement Mountain area as Wilderness. Though I understand it is close to a population area, all the more reason to keep it as a place for people to explore nature and to experience the joys of being outside in the best of Colorado. My contact information is as follows:

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Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you.