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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to support wilderness designation for the Granite Basin/Cement Mountain region of Roadless Area 146. I have lived in Crested Butte for almost 20 years and frequently hike in the National Forest and Wilderness areas of nearby mountains. I do not ride a mountain bike. Last summer I hiked in Granite Basin and was delighted and surprised to find such a wild place so close to home. It's perfect, wonderfully wild, and I look forward to returning.

My personal reasons for supporting wilderness designation in this area are:

- 1)the opportunity to experience the natural beauty and solitude of wilderness without the long drive required to reach other wilderness areas, and
- 2)the comfort of hiking (and scrambling) in a place where I do not have to worry about collision with fast bicycles or, even worse, noisy and dangerous motorbikes.

There are now more than 700 miles of designated mountain bike trails in the Gunnison Valley region. I feel confident that loss of the ~4 miles of difficult and rarely used bike trail that is currently present in the Granite Basin area will not significantly affect the attractiveness of the valley to mountain bikers. For the rest of us, it will be a wonderful benefit.