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Comments: I appreciate the opportunity to comment during the NEPA public comment period for this project, and I support the Forest Service 2007 Wilderness recommendation for Granite Basin. Colorado is one of the few states in our nation that has vast beauty and wilderness available for all who choose to seek it out. There are amazing amounts of wilderness recreational opportunities throughout Colorado but more rarely do you find designated wilderness areas in our great nation. The importance of preserving natural ecosystems for both people and our natural resources can not be expressed strongly enough.

By designating a new wilderness area for Granite Basin, not only will there be an exceptional natural opportunities available for all present and future generations but an increasingly rare designation will be preserved for this pristine habitat and natural resources of the area. Coming from Louisiana where designated wilderness areas are uncommon, I would strongly encourage the Forest Service's wilderness designation for Granite Basin especially since the nation's wilderness areas continue to be depleted by resource extraction and development.

Wilderness designations are and continue to be essential and of great importance as the nation continues to lose more and more of its resources over time. The forest service has a great opportunity to preserve vital and critical natural environments for our nation. I strongly encourage the Forest Service to take advantage of this opportunity.