Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/30/2013 12:00:00 AM
First name: Anne
Last name: Akers-Lewis
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Due to the devastating impacts of oil and gas development on wildlife habitat and watersheds, I am strongly opposed to any new oil and gas leasing in the Pike-San Isabel National Forest and Comanche-Cimarron National Grasslands. In areas where leasing is allowed, no surface occupancy stipulations should apply to those with wilderness qualities and to those where wildlife habitat and watersheds would be negatively impacted. Species that require special protections include the lesser prairie chicken, Mexican spotted owl, Pawnee montane skipper, lynx, and Preble's meadow jumping mouse.

No oil and gas leasing should be allowed in roadless areas, research natural areas, and special interest areas. I live in the vicinity of the Rampart Range and I am concerned about the potential effects of oil and gas leasing on the Santa Fe Trail and Picketwire Canyon. Where oil and gas leasing operations will be conducted, complete reclamation must be required upon completion of those activities.

The Forest Service should expand the EIS to include factors beyond surface disturbing activities. Oil and gas leasing is detrimental to the quality of our air, soil, and water. It causes noise pollution, disturbs wildlife, and ruins the beauty , solitude, and recreational values that bring so many visitors and residents to Colorado. Please carefully consider the environmental and economic impacts of this devastating activity keeping in mind the health and well being of wildlife and present and future generations of human beings, none of whom can survive without water.