

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/6/2019 7:00:00 AM

First name: Tony

Last name: Caligiuri

Organization: Colorado Open Lands

Title: President and CEO

Comments: December 6, 2019

Becca Smith

San Juan National Forest PO Box 310

Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Via email: rebecca.smith@usda.gov

Ms. Smith,

Colorado Open Lands, a Colorado nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of land and water statewide, submits these comments in support of the proposed Valle Seco 2019 Land Exchange and the resulting modifications to roadless area boundaries. Overall, we believe the exchange offers significant benefits for wildlife, recreation, and forest management, and the ability of both private landowners and the USFS to effectively manage their properties.

Specifically, Colorado Open Lands stands prepared to accept, hold and enforce a conservation easement on that portion of the Federal Parcel 1 (Bootjack Ranch, Johnny Creek) with Suitable Wild and Scenic Characteristics, which we understand is required for this portion of the parcel to be exchanged. Bootjack Ranch, LCC, approached Colorado Open Lands with this request and we will execute the easement expeditiously following the closing of the exchange, while allowing time for our own due diligence procedures.

If you have any questions on this matter please contact Ben Lenth, who is managing this project on behalf of COL, at 970-819-4737 or blenth@coloradoopenlands.org

Thank you,

Tony Caligiuri President and CEO