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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Cancel the Valle Seco Land Exchange

Dear Becca Smith,

Please reconsider and ultimately cancel the proposed Valle Seco Land Exchange. I am opposed to: the disposal of wilderness-quality roadless lands right next to the South San Juan Wilderness, any loss of public access to the San Juan River - or loss of protections for what's been formally recommended as a wild and scenic river.

The area of the South San Juan Wilderness is among Colorado's most pristine areas, and the adjacent roadless lands in question have been proposed for wilderness designation for more than 20 years. The San Juan National Forest previously deemed wilderness designation unnecessary because the lands were protected under the Colorado Roadless Rule. So it would be a betrayal now to turn around and give away these wilderness-quality public lands just because a billionaire wants them.

In 2013 the East Fork of the San Juan River was recommended by the Forest Service for protection as a wild and scenic river - after decades of advocacy by anglers, boaters and other river supporters. Don't violate the public's trust to reverse course and privatize this public resource.

Don't take an enormous step backward by taking away existing public access for no other reason than to please someone who lives out of state.

Any proposal must be analyzed rigorously in an environmental impact statement because the harms would be significant and contrary to the public interest. And the process must be completely open. The public deserves full transparency and the same access to decision-makers and documents as the lawyers and lobbyists enjoy.

Please - do the right thing and cancel this project, keeping these public lands in public hands.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Agneessens

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