

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/15/2020 5:14:17 PM

First name: Judy

Last name: Blaisdell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As Aldo Leopold said, "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." The San Juan National Forest proposal to approve an 8.6-mile natural gas pipeline cutting across a portion of the HD Mountains Roadless Area is land abuse at its most obscene. In doing so, the Forest Service ignores multiple legal prohibitions against scraping a 60-foot wide industrial corridor through the Roadless Area.

As you well know, the HDs encompass an abundance of old-growth ponderosa pine stands. The area you plan to destroy provides critical habitat for big game herds, and is rich with cultural resources. The proposed pipeline would create a desolate and ugly scary across the northern end of the HD Mountains, from Fosset Gulch Road on the east through magnificent stands of ponderosa pine in the Roadless Area to connect with gas wells planned west of the Roadless Area. The Roadless Area is in the way, so the plan is to just run roughshod over the law and plow a pipeline across it for the convenience of the oil and gas industry. SHAME ON THE FOREST SERVICE!!!

You also should be aware that the Colorado Roadless Rule was explicitly adopted in 2012 specifically to prevent the unnecessary destruction of shrinking roadless lands of Colorado. I would remind the Forest Service that leases that prohibit the surface use and occupancy in the Roadless Area mean just what they say. The Colorado Roadless Rule plainly and unambiguously bans gas pipelines in roadless areas where surface occupancy is not allowed.

Just obey the law, please.