Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/23/2022 6:36:42 PM
First name: Wayne
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: My comment pertains to the water rights associated with the parcel proposed for conveyance.
The water rights associated with this parcel include ditch rights amounting to 6.62 cfs or approximately 250-acre feet of senior-priority irrigation water annually. This water right originally irrigated the area previously exchanged to Pitkin and Eagle Counties in 1994, now managed by Crown Mountain Park, as well as the 30 acres proposed for conveyance now. Therefore, it is more water than is needed to irrigate the remaining 30 acres being conveyed, especially if the land is eventually developed for alternative uses.
I suggest that USFS strongly consider a conservation-based or in-stream use of any irrigation water not needed for raw water irrigation of the upper parcel. This could be accomplished with a deed restriction upon conveyance of the upper parcel. This is consistent with the Forest Service mission which includes protection and enhancement of riparian resources.