

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/17/2026 9:32:04 PM

First name: Hannah

Last name: Gooding

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear District Ranger Woodbridge,

My name is Hannah Gooding. I have lived in Routt County for 12 years and have spent this time recreating and enjoying the aliveness and beauty of the Yampa Valley with my husband, who grew up here, and now our sixth generation Steamboat children. I'm very concerned with the implications of this proposal, and I stand in strong opposition to it. At a time when our watershed is already under threat from a warming climate, opening this area up to drilling and development would be devastating.

Routt National Forest is one of my favorite places in the world. It brings our family food each fall when my husband heads out for bow season. We find peace in the wilderness; many of our most cherished family memories are in Routt National Forest. We hike, bike, camp and swim in these vast acres. This is what makes Northwest Colorado so unique and beautiful. Opening this area up to potential development projects puts Coloradans well being at risk.

Furthermore, the headwaters of the Yampa River provide critical wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, municipal water and agriculture support, and foster an essential part of the Colorado River system. We should be making decisions in the interest of protecting this area.

The parcels of land under consideration are invaluable both culturally and environmentally. As Coloradans, we want to protect and nourish the land, not open it up to extractive processes. Per Colorado College's 2026 Conservation in the West Poll, 78% of respondents preferred that our leaders emphasize protecting our habitat, water, air, and recreation instead of making land available for mining and drilling.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and protect our Colorado.

Thank you for your consideration,

Hannah