

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/17/2026 10:07:44 PM

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Comments: I've been a resident of Routt County, Colorado for 16 years and a visitor to regional national forests--Routt & Medicine Bow--for 49 years. I moved to Steamboat Springs, primarily to live in a small city in a rural region with clean water and air. Economies of our city and small towns in Routt Co have been growing based on businesses related year around to various outdoor enterprises--ranching, recreation, winter & summer sports, agriculture, hunting, fishing, and to increasing amounts & kinds of energy production that are non- or minimally-polluting. All of these are supported by, or help to support directly or indirectly, our clean water and air in natural creeks & rivers that also feed municipal systems. Thus, our environmental quality also contributes to good-to-excellent human health. We must protect our environment to protect our health while wisely growing local economies for local benefits. Petrochemical and large mineral-extraction companies have histories of bringing pollution or other local environmental damage for economic benefits principally, and sometimes entirely, to non-local large companies. Companies whose stocks are publically traded have duties to their stock holders that rank above responsibilities to local residents or local entities.

I'm among those strongly against giving any national (or state) forest land for potential future use by oil and/or gas lease sale and/or subsequent exploration and/or development. Neither should we allow selling such lands that have been paid for and/or maintained by the peoples' taxes, to be sold for future profits of corporations or relatively few individuals with enough wealth to buy for their personal profit or financial gain regardless of possible damages to local residents.

Care for our futures.