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The Keystone Center
ATTN: Roadless Areas Review
1628 Sts. John Road
Keystone, CO 80435

March 16, 2006

Dear Roadless Area Review Task Force:

We would like to express our support for the protection of all roadless areas in the Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest in Fort Collins.

We believe that roadless areas are keeping intact the last of our pristine forestry and unspoiled natural reserves which are essential for clean air, clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, as well as our economy through the tourism and recreation industries.

We are especially concerned about the following roadless areas in the Boulder Ranger District:

The Indian Peaks Adjacent East units offer campers and hikers scenic views of the undisturbed natural beauty of alpine landscapes and mountain lakes. Elks migrating in large herds are often observed by visitors as they gather in the Indian Peaks with their calves in the summer. Boreal toads, candidates for a listing amongst the endangered species, and several native grasses, which are gravely endangered in Colorado, have made their home in this area as well.

The North St. Vrain area encompasses a large montane forest and wetland ecosystems which operate under a natural hydrologic flow. Trees in this area are from 200 to 400 years old and bighorn sheep herds number around 150. The ponderosa pine and other rare plant species in this area have led to the labeling of North St. Vrain as a Research Natural Area.

In this spirit, we support the protection of the above areas as well as all roadless areas in the entire Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest, and we advocate the prohibition of construction of roads required for developmental, commercial or residential purposes.

Finally, we urge the Roadless Area Review Task Force to recommend that Governor Owens petition the United States Forest Service to protect all existing roadless areas in the Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest.

Thank you for considering our perspective.

Sincerely,

Mark Ruzzin
Mayor
On behalf of the Boulder City Council