



Board of County Commissioners

13th & Pearl Streets • Boulder County Courthouse • Boulder, Colorado 80302 • (303) 441-3500

May 9, 2006

The Keystone Center
Attn: Roadless Areas Review
1628 Sts. John Rd.
Keystone, CO 80435

Subject: Comments Concerning Protection of Roadless Areas in the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests

Dear Roadless Areas Review Task Force,

We are writing in support of preserving the roadless areas within the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and we urge the Roadless Area Review Task Force to recommend that Governor Owens petition the United States Forest Services to protect all existing roadless areas in these forests.

In particular, we have researched the roadless areas of the National Forests located in Boulder County where future road construction *would be allowed* under the November 2000 USFS Environmental Impact Statement on Roadless Area Conservation. We offer, by way of this letter, site-specific comments on those so-designated areas and we believe they should all be reclassified and designated as *not allowed* for future road construction.

We oppose building roads in these roadless areas in large part because of the issues we currently face as a result of an already complex pattern of roads in our mountainous areas. We believe further road construction will only exacerbate current problems, including:

- 1) **Erosion and water quality degradation.** (e.g., existing "jeep roads" in Boulder County, such as the one along Little James Creek in Jamestown, have caused erosion and water quality problems for the immediately-adjacent community as well as downstream watershed areas);
- 2) **Uncontrolled/unsupervised recreation activities causing resource damage** (e.g., the "Shooting Gallery" damage caused in Left Hand Canyon and the damage caused to the wetlands by ORVs in the Caribou Flats area);

