Attn: Forest Plan Revision
Dan Dallas, Supervisor
Rio Grande National Forest
1803 W. Highway 160
Monte Vista, CO 81144
E-mail to: rgnf_forest_plan@fs.fed.us

December 19, 2017

Dear Supervisor Dallas:

I am writing to express my support for the conservation designations in Alternative D. This includes the 285,000 acres recommended for wilderness, Carnero and Jim Creek Native Fish Areas, Chama Basin Watershed Protection Area, the Spruce-Osier connectivity area and the expanded La Ventana Special Interest Area.

My support for the designations stems from a strong personal desire to see that certain areas of natural habitat, not just in the United States but also in other countries around the world, remain pristine and undisturbed. Certain natural environments have special characteristics that are simply unique and irreplaceable—the wilderness in certain parts of the Rio Grande National Forest is simply too important for its natural habitat and the downstream communities who depend on its stable ecology to be disturbed in order to gain from current intended productive use.

While I support the array of recommended designations in Alternative D, at a minimum I also recommend the following 5 Special Interest Areas (the "5 SIAs") for wilderness protection:

- Sangre de Cristo Recommended Wilderness Additions (Butterfly Creek-Miller Creek, Cotton Creek, Kit Carson Peak and Blanca Peak additions);
- Wannamaker Creek-Deep Creek and Wason Park additions to the La Garita Wilderness (Saguache Ranger District);
- Additions to South San Juan Wilderness (Conejos Peak Ranger District);
- Antora Meadows Recommended Wilderness; and
- Saguache Creek Recommended Wilderness.

I am writing this letter not particularly as an active citizen of the United States, but as an active citizen of the world who happens to be a citizen of Indonesia. I also write this because I have personal experience of having been in the land that is surrounded by the Rio Grande National Forest. In the fall of 2011 I attended a ten-day nature retreat at the Way of Nature's Sacred Land Sanctuary in Crestone, Colorado. Even back then when I came as an urban dweller with very little experience of having been in the outdoors, the Sacred Land Sanctuary struck me as a marvel because of its pristine nature, sacred surroundings, and awesome vistas of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. I understand the sometimes compelling arguments of immediate economic development and resource exploitation for private/public use. However, such arguments, which are sometimes laden with short-term interests and profit seeking motives, need to be counter-balanced by long-term views and environmental and social considerations that carry a multi-generational impact. Even when performed sustainably, certain economic exploitations cause irreversible harm and there are simply no ways to undo them. Sometimes, such exploitations are

just plain unnecessary because the benefits disproportionately accrue to the sponsors who undertake such exploitations for maximum short-term and personal gains.

I know that by adopting the conservation designations in Alternative D and the 5 SIAs listed above, the forest managers in charge of the future of the Rio Grande National Forest are acting in the best long-term interest of the ecosystem and are making an enlightened decision to protect the area's local economy, its natural heritage, its opportunities for outdoor recreation, and its livelihood for future generations.

Sincerely,

Signature: DENNIS WUISAN Date: 12/20/2017

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