President Obama:

We’re banking on you to safeguard Colorado’s backcountry forests

Outdoor recreation means more than $7 billion and 107,000 jobs to Colorado. And hunting and fishing, hiking and biking, camping and climbing all depend on the careful conservation of our backcountry forests and public lands.

As sportsmen and outdoor recreationists, we were grateful when the Denver-based Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the Roadless Area Conservation Rule as the law of the land. This popular policy benefits our forests, fish, wildlife, and outdoor recreation.

But your proposed plan for Colorado’s roadless forests would open pristine habitat to commercial development, such as road-building, drilling and power line construction. As drafted, it threatens the state’s best backcountry and multi-billion dollar outdoor recreation industry.

The Colorado roadless rule must be as strong as or stronger than the Roadless Area Conservation Rule – nothing less.