

The Trappers Lake Chapter of the Sierra Club
PO Box 772746
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

January 17, 2023

Dear Committee,

This letter is to express Routt County's support of the proposed expansion of the Sarvis Creek Wilderness Area. This approximate 7,000-acre expansion will restore the existing 44,556 acre Sarvis Creek Wilderness Area, approved in 1993, to its intended size. The 7,200 acres were withdrawn from the Sarvis Creek Wilderness Proposal in the 1980's due to the application for the Lake Catamount Ski Area which the USFS terminated in 1999.

The lasting benefits of this expansion for the residents of Routt County, the State of Colorado, and the citizens of the United States include:

- The expansion of an exceptional sub-alpine low altitude Wilderness Area near the population centers of Steamboat Springs and Stagecoach that will be accessible to the citizens of Colorado and the United States which would showcase and educate the public on the value of wilderness lands for future generations.
- The expansion of lands protected in Routt County's Sarvis Creek Area Plan which Routt County approved to protect the environmental sensitive Sarvis Creek Area.
- The protection of the watersheds, aquatic resources and the water quality of Harrison and Green Creeks which flow into the Yampa River.
- The protection of the area wildlife and floral resources and their habitats.
- The cultural uplift from the knowledge that a part of our western landscape has been protected due to the cooperative efforts of multiple organizations and diverse members of numerous communities.
- This proposal includes a 1,000-foot wildfire mitigation buffer to the Lake Catamount residential development. This wildfire buffer has been proposed by the US Forest Service, Yampa District.

Thank you for your consideration of the Sarvis Creek Wilderness Area expansion project.

Respectfully,

Tim Redmond, Chair
Routt County Board of County Commissioners