**[Scoping Comment Outline and Talking Points – all bold, bracketed text should be replaced with appropriate information. This document is meant to serve as a template - feel free to add/change/delete any parts as you see fit]**

Attention: Eastern Colorado RMP

Bureau of Land Mangement

3028 East Main Street

Canon City, CP 81212

ECRMP.comments@blm.gov

Comments Submitted On: **[Date]**

Comments Submitted By: **[Name], [Address]**

Affiliations: Colorado Mountain Club, **[Other recreation or conservation groups/organizations]**

Greetings BLM staff,

I am pleased to submit public comments during the scoping process for the Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan. I place a high value on the human-powered recreational opportunities available in this area and hope to see the revised RMP balance these uses with natural resource conservation.

Recreation Management Areas

I encourage the BLM to consider Recreation Management Area designations for the following lands:

* Red Canyon SRMA: located north of Canyon City, this area offers a variety of recreational opportunities including primitive hiking, rock climbing and mountain biking. There are opportunities to enjoy backcountry solitude in the Booger/Red Hill areas, while the Shelf Road and Oilwell Flats zones are well suited for more intense human-powered recreation and camping. **[Provide info on any personal experience you have, e.g. I enjoy climbing with my family and friends in Shelf Road area because…]** I urge you to accommodate higher use in the front country zones, while protecting primitive and remote areas from new trail/facility development and expanded use. Recreational shooting should remain closed in the majority of recreation area to protect user safety and quiet recreation experiences. Motorized travel should also remain restricted to the designated routes delineated in the current TMP.
* Stanley Creek ERMA: Located south of Gardner, this area sits on the periphery of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness and San Isabel National Forest. The area contains a trail-based recreation system with a significant amount of non-motorized recreation opportunities. This ERMA should help maintain a variety of dispersed and non-motorized recreation opportunities that facilitate visitor freedom to access a range of outdoor recreation activities associated with a natural landscape with limited developments. The ERMA will protect scenic and backcountry values for multiple recreation opportunities in Wilderness Areas, lands with wilderness characteristics, State Wildlife Areas, Forests, and State Land Trust areas.
* Arkansas Canyon ERMA: extending along the banks of the Arkansas River from Salida to Leadville, this area includes easily accessible recreation opportunities for hiking, fishing, mountain biking, wildlife viewing and more. There are several developed trail systems and an expanse of primitive and remote areas that should remain restricted from motorized trail development, mineral development, and other disturbances.

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

I support the designation and strong management of LWCs in the Royal Gorge field office to protect a wide variety of resources including wildlife, rare plants, sensitive soils, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The inventory of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics completed by Wild Connections provides a comprehensive report of recommended LWC areas.

**[Template for recommendations regarding additional specific areas]**

Area or trail name:

* Describe the area and your historical use/knowledge of the area (time of year and hiking, camping, photography, etc):
* Why is the area important from your perspective? (You may wish to speak to opportunities for Solitude, Primitive and Unconfined Recreation and the area’s Supplemental Values – Ecological, Wildlife, Historical, Geological, etc.)
* How would you like to see this area managed by BLM and why? (For example as a ‘Land with Wilderness Characteristics’ or an ‘Area of Critical Environmental Concern’.)
* Additional Comments (please consider adding comments on travel management including adjacent or overlapping routes/areas):

Sincerely,

 **[Name, Contact Info]**