



**TOWN OF CARBONDALE**  
511 COLORADO AVENUE  
CARBONDALE, CO 81623

June 1, 2023

Scott Fitzwilliams  
Forest Supervisor  
White River National Forest

Chad Stewart  
Forest Supervisor  
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests

RE: Support for Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Request for Cooperating Agency Status

Dear Messrs. Fitzwilliams and Stewart,

The Town of Carbondale has long been a strong proponent of protecting the Thompson Divide from oil and gas development. We have been engaged. We have consistently supported administrative and legislative protections for the Thompson Divide, as referenced in our recent comments that were submitted jointly with the City of Glenwood Springs to the BLM. We understand and appreciate that the Forest Service will be including the City's comments on the Federal Register Notice of the Withdrawal, attached hereto for convenience, as part of the Scoping Comment Period. We would like to restate our support in 2023 for the proposed administrative mineral withdrawal.

The Town of Carbondale also wishes to request designation as a "cooperating agency" pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations 40 C.F.R. § 1508.1. The Town has a long history of engagement on the issue and possesses local knowledge and expertise of the subject landscape, socioeconomic effects of the proposal. The Town is willing and able to commit the resources necessary to be a strong partner with the agencies in this process.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input on the Thompson Divide Withdrawal. We look forward to working with you and your staff to efficiently move this process forward.

Sincerely,

  
Ben Bohmfalk