

June 1, 2023

Scott Fitzwilliams
Forest Supervisor
White River National Forest

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



RE: Scoping Comment Letter on Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Request for Cooperating Agency Status

Dear Messrs. Fitzwilliams and Stewart,

The City of Glenwood Springs has been proud to support the protection of the Thompson Divide since 2009. As documented in the attached correspondence from the past decade-and-a-half of support, the Thompson Divide area is worthy of protection. 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. With the recent election of three new City Council Members, we wish to reaffirm that the City fully supports Thompson Divide Withdrawal.

The City 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 City possesses local knowledge and expertise of the subject landscape, socioeconomic effects of the proposal as shown by the City's longstanding involvement in this matter. The City 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 scoping comments on the Thompson Divide Withdrawal. We look forward to working with you and your staff to efficiently move this process forward.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Wussow
Mayor