



June 16, 2023

Anthony Edwards, Deputy Forest Supervisor
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests
2250 South Main Street
Delta, Colorado 81416

Scoping Comments RE: Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Public Meeting, Thompson Divide Area

Dear Deputy Supervisor Edwards,

Please Accept the following 27 unique letters on behalf of the 27 Wilderness Workshop members who wrote them.

I have flown over the Divide at peak fall color in small plane and photographed some of the most sublime autumn images in all of Colorado. The aspen and oak copses are extraordinary. I have also hiked the western boundary from Buzzard Divide country and explored the ranches on the eastern boundary therefore have a pretty good idea overall why this land is unique and should be protected forever from development. I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. The Thompson Divide occupies nearly 225,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat, including a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the Thompson Divide are vital to the region's recreation and tourism economy, attracting tens of thousands of locals and visitors each year. The existing values in the area support hundreds of jobs and contribute tens of millions annually to local communities. Quite simply, the Divide is like nowhere else in Colorado. For many years, locals have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development - a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. "Unified for Thompson Divide" is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope Forest Service staff will consider these comments as part of your review process. Our community's ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of



Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection, and it has my wholehearted support! Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide!

JOHN FIELDER
Silverthorne, CO

I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. The Thompson Divide occupies nearly 225,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat, including a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the Thompson Divide are vital to the region's recreation and tourism economy, attracting tens of thousands of locals and visitors each year. The existing values in the area support hundreds of jobs and contribute tens of millions annually to local communities. Quite simply, the Divide is like nowhere else in Colorado. For many years, locals have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development - a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. "Unified for Thompson Divide" is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope Forest Service staff will consider these comments as part of your review process. Our community's ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection, and it has my wholehearted support! I can't say it any better. Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide.

Peter Loram
Aspen, CO

I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. The Thompson Divide occupies nearly 225,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat, including a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the Thompson Divide are vital to the region's recreation and tourism economy,



attracting tens of thousands of locals and visitors each year. The existing values in the area support hundreds of jobs and contribute tens of millions annually to local communities. Quite simply, the Divide is like nowhere else in Colorado. In 1972 I was assigned the Carbondale District for the Colorado Division of Wildlife. That district included anything that drained into the Crystal River. Most of the Thompson Divide is included in that district. I have ridden horses through out this country, I have skied down the south side of Sunlight Ski Area and ended up at Bob Sewells ranch on Thompson Ck. I have hiked All of the Thompson Drainages. I rode horses around the rim of Coal Basin, a very tough route. I know where to find Morrels when the snow goes out. There is a 30'DBH Aspen near 30*30' 35.28N and 107* 21' 23.13 W. I know this country. I saw it before they put in the gas roads. The road stopped at Four Mile Park. After that there was a 2-track that was only open to willies jeeps. the only common 4wheel drive vehicle then. Deer and elk were common in Baylor Park, There were beaver ponds in Calf Ck that had 12' rainbows. The impacts that those gas roads and the increase in access in. both summer and winter has diminished the values of this habitat to wildlife. It is incredible important habitat in that it is that midrange elevation that is accessible and usable year round by wildlife. It contains both winter range and summer range for a wide diversity of species. It is some of the last habitat left that had not been impacted by development. Removal of the the gas leases with provide one step in protecting this important habitat. This area has too many roads already. For many years, locals have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development- a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. "Unified for Thompson Divide" is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope Forest Service staff will consider these comments as part of your review process. Our community's ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection and it has my wholehearted support! Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide! John Seidel
John seidel
San Luis Obispo, CA

I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. The Thompson Divide provides wildlife habitat, includes a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the Thompson Divide are vital to the region's



recreation and tourism economy, attracting tens of thousands of locals and visitors each year. The existing values in the area support hundreds of jobs and contribute tens of millions annually to local communities. For many years, locals have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development - a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. "Unified for Thompson Divide" is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope Forest Service staff will consider these comments as part of your review process. Our ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection and it has my wholehearted support! Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide!

Maggie Rerucha
Northglenn, CO

Please act now to protect the Thompson Divide from mineral extraction. The Divide must be protected from the pollution and habitat loss that goes along with oil and gas development. The Thompson Divide is too important in providing clean water to the surrounding areas to be polluted. It also provides important habitat for native wildlife, and provides excellent camping and recreational trails for locals to enjoy. The Thompson Divide must permanently be protected from oil and gas development, and all of the pollution and habitat degradation that comes with it. I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. The Thompson Divide occupies nearly 225,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat, including a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the Thompson Divide are vital to the region's recreation and tourism economy, attracting tens of thousands of locals and visitors each year. The existing values in the area support hundreds of jobs and contribute tens of millions annually to local communities. Quite simply, the Divide is like nowhere else in Colorado. For many years, locals have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development - a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. "Unified for Thompson Divide" is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope



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Maya Kurtz
Glenwood Springs, CO

I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. "Unified for Thompson Divide" is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope Forest Service staff will consider these comments as part of your review process. Our community's ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection and it has my wholehearted support! Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide!

Diana keyser
Carbondale, CO

I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. I love knowing this area is protected for future generations of people and wild life to enjoy and thrive. The Thompson Divide occupies nearly 225,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat, including a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the Thompson Divide are vital to the region's recreation and tourism economy, attracting tens of thousands of locals and visitors each year. The existing values in the area support hundreds of jobs and contribute tens of millions annually to local communities. Quite simply, the Divide is like nowhere else in Colorado. For many years, locals have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development - a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today.



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Isabel Melvin
Aspen, CO

I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. The Thompson Divide occupies nearly 225,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat, including a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the Thompson Divide are vital to the region’s recreation and tourism economy, attracting tens of thousands of locals and visitors each year. The existing values in the area support hundreds of jobs and contribute tens of millions annually to local communities. Quite simply, the Divide is like nowhere else in Colorado. Why would we spoil this spectacular land with all of its biodiversity and natural beauty. For many years, locals have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development - a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. “Unified for Thompson Divide” is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope Forest Service staff will consider these comments as part of your review process. At this time in history when we must protect all that is left of our scenic and wild lands, we must do just that. Our community's ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection and it has my wholehearted support! Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide!

Janet Wyatt
Fruita, CO



I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. I live in Paonia. I hunt, hike and fish in the Thompson Divide. My husband and I chose to move here because of what's here: elk and deer hunting, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing within minutes of Paonia. We wanted to help maintain our health by being active all year, being able to raise our own food or buy organic vegetables and meat locally. The North Fork Valley's water supply comes from the Thompson Divide. Fossil fuel extraction in our watershed is not compatible with keeping our watershed safe, preserving wildlife habitat, hiking and skiing recreation. Gunnison and Delta Counties have already reached or exceeded the level of warming that threatens human existence. It is becoming more and more difficult to grow a garden here because of the summer heat. Vegetables struggled to survive not grow. It is lunacy to continue to add to the emissions load that threatens our agricultural economy, livelihoods and health. In the summer of 2010, I accompanied my husband and an NRCS employee to a produced water evaporation site near Vernal, Utah. Within a couple of minutes, I was sick to my stomach, unsteady on my feet and continued to suffer nausea for approximately 3 hours after we left the site. No one else got sick and I didn't expect to, but I am apparently very sensitive to whatever air pollutants were present. I will be a "down winder" and a "down drinker" to Thompson Divide drilling. I don't want to find out too late that our water is contaminated with the endocrine disrupting chemicals and carcinogens pumped into the ground and spilled from fossil fuel extraction. In 2011, a rheumatologist diagnosed me with an autoimmune disorder, polymyalgia rheumatic or PMR. This disease painfully attacks the joint tissues of hips and shoulders. No one knows how or why some people contract this disorder. Fortunately, I did recover 1.5 years later. In late Oct. of 2012, a neurologist found that my headaches were chronic migraines. Avoiding migraine triggers has restricted my eating choices, even for healthy foods such as beans, cheese and nuts. These health challenges made me realize how health concerns can cascade into life catastrophes. When I contracted PMR, I was a self-employed freelance writer. I waited months for an appointment with the rheumatologist as my condition steadily worsened to the point where I had difficulty caring for my basic bodily needs, could not drive or walk more than 1/2 of a mile let alone work. Without my husband's support and health insurance, I would have no income or transportation. In other words, I believe I would've been homeless. Due to these experiences, I believe it is of the utmost importance to protect citizens' health and the environment. I don't want to live in a world without diverse wildlife. Independent research in Wyoming has shown repeatedly that loss of habitat and habitat fragmentation from roads and energy development hurts wildlife populations and interferes with migration routes. Wildlife needs roadless areas where they can be undisturbed. Physiological monitoring shows a stress response even in animals that seemingly tolerate traffic and human presence. Mule deer populations have declined by 50 percent across the West. Although energy development is not the only impact, the roads built and well pads



reduce habitat acreage. In addition, behavioral avoidance of roads and human activity by big game represent a greater habitat loss (Sawyer et al. 2006, 2009a; Walston et al. 2009). Anytime native vegetation is disturbed through surface disturbance, invasive weeds are often the first to take over. This degrades habitat, not only for wildlife, but for domestic livestock grazing on public land. Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide!

Marilyn Stone
Paonia, CO

I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these irreplaceable public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. Quite simply, the Divide is like nowhere else in Colorado. For many years, locals have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development- a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope Forest Service staff will consider these comments as part of your review process. Our community's ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection and it has my wholehearted support! In the name of my three great grandchildren, I thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide! May it still be protected when they grow up.

Katherine Delanoy
Eagle, CO

I am a resident of the Divide. I hunt the Divide. I hike and camp in the Divide. My water supply comes from the watersheds in the Divide. The Thompson Divide needs to be protected! I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. The Thompson Divide occupies nearly 225,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat, including a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the Thompson Divide are vital to the region's recreation and tourism economy, attracting tens of thousands of locals and visitors each year. The existing values in the area support hundreds of jobs and contribute tens of millions annually to local communities. Quite simply, the Divide is like nowhere else in Colorado. For many years, locals have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development- a use that is not



compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. “Unified for Thompson Divide” is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope Forest Service staff will consider these comments as part of your review process. Our community's ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection and it has my wholehearted support! Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide!

Dan Feuerborn
Carbondale, CO

Dear US Forest Service, Our whole family supports the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide, a precious and unique land parcel which is central to the Colorado lifestyle both traditional and recreation based. The Thompson Divide occupies nearly 225,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat, including a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the Thompson Divide are vital to the region’s recreation and tourism economy, attracting tens of thousands of locals and visitors each year. The existing values in the area support hundreds of jobs and contribute tens of millions annually to local communities. Quite simply, the Divide is like nowhere else in Colorado. For many years, locals have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development - a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. “Unified for Thompson Divide” is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope Forest Service staff will consider these comments as part of your review process. Our community's ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection and it has my wholehearted support! Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide!

Susan Carrese
Carbondale, CO



I am writing as a physician and public health/environmental protection advocate who strongly supports full protection for the irreplaceable monuments and landscapes on our public lands, including the Thompson Divide. The Thompson Divide is a spectacular landscape of a quarter of a million acres of public land in western Colorado. Filled with awe-inspiring natural beauty and abundant wildlife, the local community has been fighting for its protection for over a decade. For many years, the local Western Colorado families have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development because this is a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. "Unified for Thompson Divide" is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I very much urge the Forest Service staff to please consider these comments as part of my review process. At this time, I thank you for your consideration of my letter and my recommendations. The Western Colorado's ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection, which has my wholehearted support! I sincerely appreciate and thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide! Sincerely,

Jean Marie Naples, MD-Ph.D.

Jean Naples
Suffern, NY

I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. This area is unique and deserves being set aside from oil and gas exploration and exploration! The Thompson Divide occupies nearly 225,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat, including a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the Thompson Divide are vital to the region's recreation and tourism economy, attracting tens of thousands of locals and visitors each year. The existing values in the area support hundreds of jobs and contribute tens of millions annually to local communities. Quite simply, the Divide is like nowhere else in Colorado. For many years, locals have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development - a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. "Unified for Thompson Divide" is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope



Forest Service staff will consider these comments as part of your review process. Our community's ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection and it has my wholehearted support! Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide! We are fortunate to live nearby and use and love the freedom it allows us to enjoy just the way it is!

Todd Patrick
Glenwood Springs, CO

Please protect the Thompson Divide from development by oil and gas and mineral extraction interests and preserve the landscape for agriculture and recreation. I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. The Thompson Divide occupies nearly 225,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat, including a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the Thompson Divide are vital to the region's recreation and tourism economy, attracting tens of thousands of locals and visitors each year. The existing values in the area support hundreds of jobs and contribute tens of millions annually to local communities. Quite simply, the Divide is like nowhere else in Colorado. For many years, locals have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development- a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. "Unified for Thompson Divide" is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope Forest Service staff will consider these comments as part of your review process. Our community's ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection and it has my wholehearted support! Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide!

Luke HECHT
Snowmass, CO



My family and I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. The Thompson Divide is incredible, often pristine land. Our family, including our two daughters, aged 5 and 7, explores that area as our natural Carbondale playground. We meet others from across our region and the world there doing the same thing. The first “hike” that my kids did on their own two feet is there. The place I go cross country skiing on trails shared by Olympians is there. The bald eagle that cruises the Crystal River in our backyard calls it home. The place that I overheard a group of 6 old timers at the coffee shop say is the most beautiful place in Colorado is there. The quiet place I could walk in nature and still be nearby the hospital when I was recovering from chemotherapy is there. The beauty and the solitude there is important for a healthy, human existence. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope Forest Service staff will consider these comments as part of your review process. Our community's ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection and it has my wholehearted support! Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide! My little girls are depending on you to keep this area safe and protected from development forever.

Lauren Sontag
Carbondale, CO

I strongly support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. The Thompson Divide occupies nearly 225,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat, including a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the Thompson Divide are vital to the region’s recreation and tourism economy, attracting tens of thousands of locals and visitors each year. The existing values in the area support hundreds of jobs and contribute tens of millions annually to local communities. Quite simply, the Divide is like nowhere else in Colorado. For many years, locals have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development- a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. “Unified for Thompson Divide” is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope



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Chris Moore
Denver, CO

I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide!

Dan McCurdy
Springfield, IL

I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. The Thompson Divide occupies nearly 225,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat, including a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the Thompson Divide are vital to the region's recreation and tourism economy, attracting tens of thousands of locals and visitors each year. The existing values in the area support hundreds of jobs and contribute tens of millions annually to local communities. Quite simply, the Divide is like nowhere else in Colorado. For many years, locals have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development - a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. "Unified for Thompson Divide" is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope Forest Service staff will consider these comments as part of your review process. Our community's ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection and it has my wholehearted support! PLEASE do not allow oil and gas drilling in this pristine area. The land will



be destroyed, never to be recovered again. Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide! Lucy Smythe
Lucy Smythe
Basalt, CO

I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. I have lived in local towns including Hotchkiss and Paonia in the past and the lifestyle of the residents is fast disappearing. In years past, I also worked in the mining industry and have personally seen the careless destruction that occurs on mining and drilling sites. The watershed MUST be protected. The Thompson Divide occupies nearly 225,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat, including a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the Thompson Divide are vital to the region's recreation and tourism economy, attracting tens of thousands of locals and visitors each year. The existing values in the area support hundreds of jobs and contribute tens of millions annually to local communities. Quite simply, the Divide is like nowhere else in Colorado. For many years, locals have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development- a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. "Unified for Thompson Divide" is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope Forest Service staff will consider these comments as part of your review process. Our community's ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection and it has my wholehearted support! Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide!

skip mitas
Grand Junction, CO

I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests.
Lindsey Williams
Silt, CO



Please consider this message as our comment on the proposed administrative withdrawal for the Thompson Divide. We heartily support the proposed withdrawal, and we thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. The Thompson Divide occupies nearly 225,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat, including a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the Thompson Divide are vital to the region's recreation and tourism economy, attracting tens of thousands of locals and visitors each year. The existing values in the area support hundreds of jobs and contribute tens of millions annually to local communities. Quite simply, the Divide is like nowhere else in Colorado. We are aware that local residents have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development - a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. "Unified for Thompson Divide" is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. We wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and we hope Forest Service staff will consider these comments as part of your review process. We believe the ultimate goal must be to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection and it has my wholehearted support! Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide!

George and Frances Alderson
Catonsville, MD

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Richard Wells
Carbondale, CO

I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. I and my friends have frequently availed ourselves of the beauty of the Thompson Divided from Glenwood Springs to Marble. As well as providing the much needed mental health pick me up, it is also a major driver for tourism based industry around us. Mineral development ultimately scars the landscape and more often than not leaves behind an environmental mess when they are done. It is just an incompatible use of this incomparable landscape. Our community's ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection and it has my wholehearted support! Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide!

Jerome Daytobn
Carbondale, CO

This area has been repeatedly combed through and the choice to protect it from mineral leasing has managed to be seen as an important and valid decision. It is time to protect these. I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. The Thompson Divide occupies nearly 225,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat, including a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the



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Carol Pierce

Montrose, CO

This area needs to be protected because it is unpeopled and will give future generations a place to escape from the rat race. I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. The Thompson Divide occupies nearly 225,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat, including a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the Thompson Divide are vital to the region's recreation and tourism economy, attracting tens of thousands of locals and visitors each year. The existing values in the area support hundreds of jobs and contribute tens of millions annually to local communities. Quite simply, the Divide is like nowhere else in Colorado. For many years, locals have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development- a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. "Unified for Thompson Divide" is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope Forest Service staff will consider these comments as part of your review process. Our community's ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals



take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection and it has my wholehearted support! Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide!

Chuck Malloy
Carbondale, CO

I am a director of Delta Montrose Electric Association and a monitoring committee member of the GMUG first service projects, and see the Thompson Divide Area as a jewel to protect. I support the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal for the Thompson Divide and thank the Forest Service for working to provide meaningful protection for these spectacular public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests. The Thompson Divide occupies nearly 225,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat, including a dozen watersheds that provide clean water to domestic and agricultural users in Western Colorado. It is relied upon by local grazers for summer range, sustaining a strong local ranching economy. Undeveloped public lands like the Thompson Divide are vital to the region's recreation and tourism economy, attracting tens of thousands of locals and visitors each year. The existing values in the area support hundreds of jobs and contribute tens of millions annually to local communities. Quite simply, the Divide is like nowhere else in Colorado. For many years, locals have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development- a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those who rely on this landscape today. "Unified for Thompson Divide" is a rallying cry that has brought our region's diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. I wish to thank the Bureau of Land Management, who previously accepted comments on the proposed withdrawal, and I hope Forest Service staff will consider these comments as part of your review process. Our community's ultimate goal is to achieve permanent protection for the Divide from new mineral leasing and development. Legislative proposals, like the recently reintroduced Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, would provide such protection. However, those proposals take time to pass through the halls of Congress. In the meantime, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection and it has my wholehearted support! Thank you for your efforts to protect the Thompson Divide!

Enno Heuscher
Cedaredge, CO