



## TOWN OF CARBONDALE

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December 26, 2023

Anthony Edwards  
Deputy Forest Supervisor  
GMUG National Forest  
2250 South Main St.  
Delta, CO 81416

Dear Mr. Edwards,

The Town of Carbondale would like to express its support for the proposed administrative mineral withdrawal for the Thompson Divide. For over a decade, Carbondale has consistently been supportive of the community efforts to protect federal public lands in the Thompson Divide from mineral development. We believe that the draft Environmental Assessment accurately reflects our community's shared values for the resources in the Thompson Divide.

Carbondale sits at the northern edge of the 225,000-acre Thompson Divide area, which is important to our community for its current and existing uses. The Thompson Divide landscape contains significant blocks of roadless area that provide wildlife habitat and migration corridors and is one of the most sought-after hunting units in the state. The area is part of a critical big-game migration corridor and provides key wildlife security for species such as deer, elk, bear, mountain lion, and lynx. The entire area is an important elk-calving habitat and summer range for big game. Watersheds in the Thompson Divide provide clean water to local farmers and ranchers, many of whom depend on these public lands for summer grazing allotments. Locals regularly use the area to climb, hike, bike, ski, and snowmobile. These ecological, recreational, agricultural, and economic values define our rural character and contribute to the quality of life in Carbondale and the surrounding communities.

Energy development in this area would have harmful impacts on the current ecological, recreational, agricultural, and economic values in our community. For a long time, the protection of the Thompson Divide has united a diverse coalition of ranchers, mountain bikers, hunters, businesses, and conservationists. The Town of Carbondale appreciates the opportunity to join with surrounding communities in support of protecting the Thompson Divide.

We hope that you will finalize the 20-year mineral withdrawal as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Ben Bohmfalk  
Mayor  
Town of Carbondale