

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/13/2023 7:00:00 AM

First name: Jeffrey

Last name: Peterson

Organization: Glenwood Springs Citizens Alliance

Title: President

Comments: Our organization is writing in support of the proposed full mineral withdrawal for the entirety of the Thompson Divide area and in support of the proposed federal mineral withdrawal for the lands surrounding Mount Emmons.

The Glenwood Springs Citizens[rsquo] Alliance is a community nonprofit organization formed in 2018 to oppose a planned expansion of a limestone mine on federal land near Glenwood Springs. We represent more than 2,700 individuals and more than 300 businesses and organizations that support our local cause.

The Thompson Divide area is just a few miles away from Glenwood Springs, and familiar to many of us. Oil and gas development in this area would be incompatible with the many resources and uses that exist today in Thompson Divide, such as watershed and wildlife habitat values.

Mount Emmons has been at the center of a 40-year battle over molybdenum mining. Since the parties have reached agreement, now is the time to enact a federal mineral withdrawal for Mount Emmons and the surrounding landscape. Residents, businesses and tourists who cherish Crested Butte and Gunnison County should be able to enjoy this scenic alpine area and build their economy free of the threat of devastating mining operations.

For these reasons, mineral withdrawals for Thompson Divide and Mount Emmons are essential to protect these areas until Congress can enact permanent protections. We urge the US Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service to move forward with these mineral withdrawal actions.