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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed 20-year administrative withdrawal of 225,000 acres of the Thompson Divide from future oil and gas leasing. It is also my hope that the withdrawal will lead to permanent protection of the area through the CORE Act. There are many reasons to support this action including the economic support to surrounding communities and the state provided by recreational activities and hunting. But first and foremost, the Thompson Divide helps with carbon reduction and sequestration. Every day there is yet another report of a weather related disaster resulting from climate change, the cost of which is enormous in actual dollars and in long term impacts. "We" are continually talking about the economic benefit of extracted resources to justify giving industry the go ahead, but what about the economic value of the carbon reduction and sequestration services that forests provide? These services are critically important to human and planetary health and extremely valuable in economic terms. "We", however, seem to be blind to what we are truly giving away when oil and gas leases are issued.

The value of areas like the Thompson Divide in the fight against climate change must be part of the decision making process. I believe that the benefits of maintaining the Thompson Divide in its current state far outweigh the costs, and significant risks, of allowing oil and gas extraction in the Divide, and I strongly urge the BLM to approve the administrative withdrawal of the Thompson Divide.

Sincerely,

Candace Goodwin

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