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Comments: I am writing to express my support for the proposed 20-year administrative withdrawal of 225,000 acres of the Thompson Divide to protect the area from future oil and gas leasing. I also 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 various recreational activities as well as carbon reduction and sequestration.

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 any benefits that oil and gas extraction would provide.

I strongly urge the BLM to approve the administrative withdrawal of the Thompson Divide.