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First name: Kristina

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear BLM TDAW comments State Director Vilsack,As a mom, I want my kids and grandkids to have the same opportunities I enjoy today: to enjoy our spectacular Colorado landscapes, a chance to hike and spot wildlife, and to have clean air and water for their health. For these reasons, I support your proposal to administratively withdraw the Thompson Divide. Protection of Thompson Divide enjoys tremendous local and statewide support. Not just moms like me but also local governments, recreationists, business owners, ranchers, and community members have long supported efforts to permanently safeguard the area. The withdrawal proposal would provide meaningful protection for parts of the White River and Gunnison National Forests. As you know, Thompson Divide occupies more than 220,000 acres of prime, mostly roadless, wildlife habitat. It is known to be an important migration corridor for lynx, moose, elk, deer, bear, and mountain lions, linking wildlands near Grand Junction to the Elk Mountains. The area also includes many watersheds that provide clean water. Eventually, I would like to see permanent protection from all development for the Thompson Divide. Because legislative proposals take time to pass through Congress, the proposal to administratively withdraw Thompson Divide will provide strong interim protection. I work with young children as a speech language pathologist and I am seeing a dramatic rise in poor respiratory health of young children especially in areas where there is oil and gas development. The negative impacts of this industry are very clear. Please protect the Thompson Divide area. It will have a huge impact on the livability of our state. Thank you!