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Comments: Dear State Director Doug Vilsack, I urge the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to adopt a 20-year mineral withdrawal to ban mining and drilling in the Thompson Divide and the lands surrounding Mt. Emmons, known as Red Lady. Also, the area to be withdrawn surrounding Red Lady should be expanded to ensure that the Upper Gunnison River watershed isn't compromised by hardrock mining. The Thompson Divide is a spectacular landscape of nearly a quarter-million acres that includes mid-elevation, high-value habitat as well as wildlife migration corridors that link wildlands near Grand Junction to the main stem of the Rockies in the Elk Mountains. These lands are filled with awe-inspiring natural beauty and abundant wildlife, embodying the rural and wild character of western Colorado. They encompass more than a dozen inventoried roadless areas [mdash] one of the densest concentrations in the region. But without protections, these priceless natural resources are vulnerable to proposed hardrock mining and fracking for dirty fossil fuel development. Safeguarding these lands will benefit Colorado's communities and outdoor recreation economy, which rely on clean water, clean air and magnificent scenery. I strongly support protecting this special ecosystem with a mineral withdrawal that removes these lands from all forms of entry, appropriation and disposal under the public land laws; location, entry and patent under the mining laws; and operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.