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Title:

Comments: I wholeheartedly support the proposed administrative withdrawal of nearly225,000 acres in the Thompson Divide Area. The Thompson Divide and the NorthFork Valley are unique ecosystems that require and demand protection. The timeis now for the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service to act toprotect these areas from accelerated climate change and ecological destructionwith the proposed 20-year administrative withdrawal of these public lands fromfuture oil and gas leasing. This administrative withdrawal is necessary and urgent because:[bull] these lands, along with the Colorado River Basin and the Gunnison River Basinare warming dangerously beyond the global threshold of irreparable harm;[bull] the ecosystems in the Thompson Divide and North Fork Valley are unique and irreplaceable; [bull] the community has been fighting for protection of these lands for well over adecade;[bull] the International Energy Agency has stated that no new fossil-fuel developmentis needed beyond what has already been leased and permitted;[bull] the health and viability of these ecosystems depends on preventingindustrialization and keeping the lands wild; and[bull] the Department of Interior has the power and authority to act to protect theselands for future generations. For over 25 years the North Fork valley and surrounding areas have beenthreatened by fossil fuel drillers who pretend that the people, animals, and plantshere have a negligible stake in our own lives. Our community morale is weigheddown. We want to have clean water, air, and land for our children. The technologyused to frack has been proven to be quite faulty and tragically polluting. We want our roads safe, uncrowded by drivers paid by the trip, jacked up onstimulants so they can make more trips and rake in money. Our smallcommunities do not welcome the crime and recklessness that comes with youngmen earning more money than they know how to spend. Many peer-reviewedscientific papers attest to the irreparable damage to biodiversity, ecosystems, andhuman health caused by drilling and mining for combustive energy. The currentheedless course could cause our death by a thousand cuts (in Colorado over53,000 cuts, or wells). Over 500 BILLION gallons of water have been sullied andstolen in Colorado. Please do all you can to turn the tide toward health and aregeneration of Earth.