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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Thompson Divide Withdrawal Project. I support the request for the Secretary of the Interior for the withdrawal of public lands, which effectively close these acres off to sale or exchange, mining claims or mineral and geothermal leases.

I have been shocked, over the years, to learn of various leases on federal lands that were negotiated so long ago that the cost to the lessee was not only far below any market value, but were causing harmful practices to continue on lands owned by the American people. When opportunities presented themselves I have spoken out against these leases.

This withdrawal speaks to and acts on my concerns of preserving our natural lands for a vision that exemplifies respect for and stewardship of these precious places. "Protecting and preserving cultural, agricultural, ranching, wildlife, air quality (water, too, hopefully), recreational, ecological, and scenic values," all stated in the letter are lofty and worth goals befitting a government that cares about its people and its lands.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to comment. This project makes me very happy and I hope it wins the necessary approval.