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Comments: I wholeheartedly endorse Alternative A, which protects the pristine landscapes and thriving economy of the Thompson Divide and Gunnison Basin.

The withdrawal safeguards irreplaceable natural treasures:

- 84 occupied river miles of Colorado River cutthroat trout habitat
- 63.2 miles of stream designated as Outstanding Waters
- Primary habitat for the federally threatened Canada lynx
- Critical migration areas and winter concentration areas for deer and elk
- The economic facts speak for themselves: tourism and agriculture generate significantly more jobs in the affected counties than mining. Recreation specific to the Thompson Divide, including grazing, hunting, fishing, and other activities, contributes a substantial \$30 million annually.

The proposed 20-year withdrawal ensures the continued wilderness of the Gunnison Basin. Approximately 14,584 acres of the GMUG Roadless Area are currently available for leasing and lack the crucial "no surface occupancy" stipulation, leaving them vulnerable to future oil and gas exploration and development. This withdrawal would effectively remove these areas from consideration, preventing the construction of disruptive roads and preserving the pristine wilderness that I deeply cherish.

Protecting the Thompson Divide and Gunnison Basin isn't just about preserving a pristine landscape; it's about safeguarding the livelihoods and well-being of the communities that call it home. I strongly urge the adoption of Alternative A to ensure a vibrant future for this remarkable region.