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Comments: As a passionate hiker and your resident from 80487, I do not believe we should use our public lands for fossil fuel energy extraction. As an American, I collectively own our nations great public lands, and I do not support their use in creating even more climate-driving emissions at a time where its critical we move in the opposite direction. That is why I support the proposed withdrawal of 224,793 acres of National Forest System Lands within the Thompson Divide. Your proposal would provide meaningful protection for revered public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests and ensure public lands are contributing to climate change solutions, not adding to the United States portfolio of carbon emissions.

In my outdoor adventures, I have witnessed the impacts of climate change firsthand. Our snowpack is diminishing. Our winters are shorter. What should be falling as snow is, in fact, falling as rain. Not only does climate change threaten our nations thriving $1 trillion outdoor recreation economy, but it threatens human health and welfare. Protecting the Thompson Divide wont stop climate change on its own, but the withdrawal of oil and gas leases from the Thompson Divide is an example of how public lands protections can address climate change, too. There is no doubt that the withdrawal of over 200,000 acres from new oil and gas development (while protecting existing private property rights for leases and landowners) will slow the United States fossil fuel development and methane waste that would drive further climate change, contributing to the administrations goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions on public lands.

Public lands are the lifeblood of millions of individuals that use them for recreation. Not only do these lands provide outdoor enthusiasts (like me) opportunities to seek adventure and solitude, but they are imperative to our nations thriving outdoor recreation economy.

Outdoor recreation is dependent on a healthy environment and a stable climate. Protecting public lands is and can be a tool for addressing our changing climate. I support the proposed withdrawal of 224,793 acres of National Forest System Lands within the Thompson Divide. Your proposal would provide meaningful protection for revered public lands on the White River and Gunnison National Forests and ensure public lands are contributing to climate change solutions, not adding to the United States portfolio of carbon emissions. Thank you for your consideration.