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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please consider this message as our comment on the proposal by President Biden and the secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to withdraw 224,713 acres of the Thompson Divide from all future oil and gas leasing or mining for a period of 20 years. I (George) treasure the memory of my visits to the Roaring Fork Valley in the 1960s. I hope the Thompson Divide can be kept in its wild state forever.

We have seen oil/gas drilling in practice, on public lands in New Mexico. Even with the best surface reclamation, the operation requires roads and heavy equipment that essentially wipe out the wildlife habitat. We stand with the ranchers, conservationists, farmers, hunters and public officials who have advocated permanent protection for the Thompson Divide.

We urge you to complete the withdrawal as soon as possible. We support Alternative A, which reflects the 20-year withdrawal proposed by Secretary Deb Haaland and Secretary Tom Vilsack.

We hope the legislation to bar oil/gas leasing and hard rock mining permanently can be enacted by Congress, as proposed by Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper and Representative Joe Neguse.

Thank you for considering our thoughts on this proposal.