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Comments: The proposed Mineral Withdrawal would be extremely beneficial to The Thompson Divide.

At the current time of extreme climate change, we must take actions to protect all the natural spaces possible. In this case, this project would protect over 200,000 acres of land Colorado from new oil, gas, and mining developments in some of the state's oldest forests which are extremely important in the extraction of CO2 from the air.

The area is also extremely important for the local community for recreation like hunting, ranching, hiking, and fishing producing \$30 million annually in economic output and nearly 300 jobs.

Next, It is a lush ecosystem for fish and game from elk to black bears. It is home to endangered species like the Canadian lynx and the Colorado River cutthroat trout. According to research from CAP and Conservation Science Partners, 49 percent of the Thompson Divide is among the highest value ecosystems in all of Colorado. The land was evaluated by the following indicators: ecological intactness and connectivity, imperiled species richness, and climate accessibility.

Please put the positive impacts of the withdrawal on the local population and wildlife over potential oil and gas development that will have long-term negative impacts. By allowing this withdrawal to proceed, the Biden administration is putting action behind their talk of wanting to protect the climate from further destruction even after allowing other dangerous pipelines to advance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.