Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/2/2024 4:32:24 PM First name: Mary Kathleen Last name: Howe Organization: Title:

Comments: I am in full support of the Thompson Divide Withdrawl. I live in the North Fork Valley, and the Thompson Divide is almost in my backyard. As a person with a Master of Science in Conservation Biology and Environmental Science I am substantiated in saying that the preservation of ecosystems, in this time of species and ecosystem design, is worth exponentially more than the dollar values of any mineral extraction from this unique and relatively intact area. I only wish the Thompson Divide Withdrawal plan protected more of the North Fork Valley watershed, and I place my full support behind this effort. Preservation of natural systems is crucial to humankind's survival.