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First name: Heather

Last name: Smith

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly support the proposed 20-year ban on drilling and mining activities in the Thompson Divide, protecting 225,000 acres of National Forest land. This measure is crucial for community well-being and environmental preservation.

Personal Impact:

Consider the stories of those impacted by health, economic, and safety issues due to mining or oil and gas extraction. Their experiences highlight the urgency of this protective initiative.

Diverse Consequences:

Beyond health and economic concerns, recognize the broader impacts on communities dealing with noise, odors, decreased property values, and reduced recreational opportunities. Addressing climate change effects is equally essential for long-term sustainability.

Collaborative Efforts:

Applaud the collaborative efforts of local stakeholders, advocating for the Thompson Divide's protection. The proposed Mineral Withdrawal is a commendable step toward ensuring long-term preservation.

Specific Recommendations:

Prioritize sustainable activities like hunting, fishing, ranching, and recreation, supporting nearly 300 jobs and contributing \$30 million annually to local economies. Close the Thompson Divide to oil and gas leasing and mining for at least 20 years to safeguard air quality, wildlife habitat, watersheds, wilderness corridors, and our climate.