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Comments: I fully support the USFS and USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM) request that the Secretary of the Interior withdraw approximately 224,713 acres of lands and interests administered by the USFS and BLM from all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws; location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights. The protection and preservation of cultural, agricultural, ranching, wildlife, air quality, recreational, ecological, and scenic values in the Thompson Divide area of Colorado from negative impacts that will arise from mineral exploration and development are vital to expanded environmental protection in the US.

Permanent protection of the lands would be ideal but 20 years allows time for more robust environmental policies to be adopted.

I urge the Secretary of the Interior to fulfill the USFS and BLM request to protect the designated land from development and desecration.