

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/3/2024 7:44:24 PM

First name: Zach

Last name: Vaughter

Organization: HCCA

Title: GPLI Coordinator

Comments: To the USFS,

I support the proposed action (Alternative A) because it removes over 224,000 acres from potential oil and gas and hardrock mineral development for 20 years, protecting the natural resources and economy of the Thompson Divide and Gunnison basin

The withdrawal would prevent mining in an area that hosts 84 occupied river miles of Colorado River cutthroat habitat, 63.2 miles of stream that have been designated as Outstanding Waters, primary habitat for the federally threatened Canada lynx, and critical migration areas and winter concentration areas for deer and elk

The economic analysis shows that tourism and agriculture provide far more jobs in the impacted counties than mining; grazing, hunting and fishing, and other recreation specific to the Thompson Divide amounts to \$30 million dollars annually

The proposed 20 year withdrawal would help keep roads out of these areas by foreclosing oil and gas development in the proposed acreage.

Thank you