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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I've been a Colorado resident for more than 30 of the last 40 years. We love the Thompson Divide area and have used it recreationally many times. I am also susceptible to allergy induced asthma and Colorado's already horrible air quality limits my outdoor activities. Moreover, too many Colorado communities have water quality issues due to mining! Last but not least, the scientific community consensus is that no NEW oil, gas, or coal infrastructure should be built (and that much of what already exists needs to shut down early) if we are to avoid the worst impacts of climate change - change which is already impacting the local farmers and ranchers that I buy my food from.

I completely support a moratorium on mining and drilling in the Thompson Divide. I only wish it were for much longer than 20 years (like forever) and covered the whole state (or at least as much as the Federal Government can control).

Your own report reads: "The proposed (ban) would protect the agricultural, ranching, wildlife, air quality, recreation, ecological and scenic values of the Thompson Divide area for both intrinsic and economic value to local communities."

So please initiate this ban! The proposed Mineral Withdrawal would protect 225,000 acres of public lands from future oil and gas leasing, as well as mining. Benefits to air quality, wildlife habitat, watersheds, wilderness corridors, and our climate would be immediate and worthwhile.