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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I teach young children, have 3 of my own, and one grandchild. Young lungs are very vulnerable and need and should be entitled to clean air to breathe. The number of children I teach who have asthma has increased markedly over my 30+ years of teaching. This should not be the case since clean, renewable energy technology is available. In addition, hunting, fishing, ranching, and recreation in the Thompson Divide area support nearly 300 jobs and \$30 million in annual economic output for local communities. These sustainable uses should be prioritized over the destructive practices of mining and fossil fuel extraction on our publicly owned lands. Closing the Thompson Divide area to oil and gas leasing and mining for at least 20 years 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. Thank you.