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First name: Kelsy

Last name: Been

Organization: Crystal Valley Environmental Protection Association

Title: Board Member

Comments: The Crystal Valley Environmental Protection Association (CVEPA) supports the short-term protection of Thompson Divide through the Forest Service's proposed Administrative Withdrawal process as we work towards permanent protection through the CORE Act.

The proposed Administrative Withdrawal would protect 225,000 acres of Thompson Divide public lands. Without this protection, the many users who enjoy this wild land and water for camping, fishing, hiking, biking, hunting, farming and ranching, and just being in nature could see it transformed by mineral leasing and energy development in the years to come.

CVEPA always works to protect the incredible environment in the Crystal River Valley. In this case, CVEPA is joined by many kinds of stakeholders from the broader region in supporting both immediate and long-term protection.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kelsy Been on behalf of the CVEPA Board