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First name: leo

Last name: tonozzi

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As someone deeply passionate about backcountry skiing and proud to call 81601 home, I strongly oppose the use of our public lands for fossil fuel extraction. As an American, I see these lands as a collective heritage, and I firmly stand against their exploitation for activities that worsen climate change. That's why I wholeheartedly support the proposed protection of 224,793 acres in the Thompson Divide from any energy extraction activities. This measure would safeguard cherished public lands in the White River and Gunnison National Forests, ensuring they contribute to combating climate change rather than adding to our nation's carbon emissions.

In my outdoor pursuits, I've witnessed the immediate impacts of climate change: dwindling snowpacks, shorter winters, and rain instead of snowfall. This not only endangers our \$1 trillion outdoor recreation economy but also threatens human well-being. While protecting the Thompson Divide won't solve climate change alone, halting oil and gas leases there sets an important precedent. It demonstrates how safeguarding public lands can play a role in addressing climate change. By withdrawing over 200,000 acres from new fossil fuel development (while respecting existing private property rights), we can slow down harmful emissions, aligning with the government's aim to cut greenhouse gases from public lands.

Public lands are essential for millions like me who seek adventure and solace in nature. They're not just recreation hubs but crucial to our thriving outdoor economy.

Outdoor activities thrive in a healthy environment and stable climate. Protecting public lands is a pivotal step in addressing our changing climate. That's why I wholeheartedly support the proposed withdrawal of 224,793 acres in the Thompson Divide. This move would safeguard invaluable public lands in the White River and Gunnison National Forests, ensuring they're part of the solution to climate change. Thank you for considering this vital issue.