

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/6/2024 7:02:42 PM

First name: Hank

Last name: van Berlo

Organization:

Title:

Comments: TWIC,

I am 75 years old and have lived in Carbondale, Redstone, Crystal River Valley most of my adult life. While I have no commercial or agricultural interest in the Thompson Divide area, I have hiked, backpacked, and camped in its confines many times over decades. It would be a shame if our 4 children and their families would not be able to experience the virgin natural beauty of the area that I have so enjoyed. The impact of mineral and oil and gas development is glaringly evident just over McClure Pass , the Roan Plateau, and throughout Western Colorado.

Energy independence is necessary for our country, but preserving certain beautiful areas for wildlife and other habitat is also our national heritage since Theodore Roosevelt established the first national park. Some places are worth more secured for posterity than private corporate bottom lines. A board room window view, and decisions made from that vantage point, can never compare to what I see from my window. Please protect it forever.

Thank you,

Hank van Berlo