



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, April 3, 2024
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Colorado Local Elected Officials Celebrate the Thompson Divide Mineral Withdrawal

DURANGO, CO -- Today the Biden administration is [withdrawing nearly 222,000 acres](#) of lands from mineral development from the Thompson Divide in Colorado. [The Mountain Pact](#), an organization that works with local elected officials in 100 communities across the Western U.S., released the below statements from area local elected officials in response to the announcement.

Chair of Pitkin County, Colorado Commission Greg Poschman said, *“For over ten years, Pitkin County Commissioners, on behalf of the constituents of Pitkin County, have recognized the cultural, environmental, and economic values of the public lands in the Thompson Divide and have long sought protections for the area. Protection of the Thompson Divide is the result of years of stakeholder work that included western slope counties, conservation organizations, outdoor recreation groups, extractive industries, ranching, agricultural and wildlife organizations.”*

We thank the President Biden administration for listening to this collaborative process and administratively withdrawing land from future oil and gas leasing and mining through a finalized Thompson Divide Mineral Withdrawal.”

Town of Carbondale, Colorado Mayor Ben Bohmfalk said, *“For many years, the communities surrounding the Thompson Divide have joined together to advocate for the protection of the Divide from the threat of new fossil fuel development - a use that is not compatible with the livelihoods of those that rely on this landscape today. We thank the Biden Administration for finalizing the process to withdraw the Thompson Divide area from new oil and gas leases.”*

Mayor Torre, City of Aspen said, *“Environmental protection of the Thompson Divide is crucial for the long-term health of the Roaring Fork Valley community and neighboring rural communities. Unified for Thompson Divide’ is a rallying cry that has brought our region’s diverse communities together and captivated imaginations nationwide. We celebrate the news today of the Biden administration finalizing the process to withdraw the Thompson Divide area from new oil and gas leases.”*

Anna Peterson, Executive Director of The Mountain Pact said, *“With huge applause and thanks, we commend the Biden Administration for withdrawing land from new oil and gas leasing and mining from the Thompson Divide. Taking these administrative actions help our communities that depend on outdoor recreation and sustainable public lands to succeed. The changing climate impacts our daily lives through wildfires, drought, flooding, and intense weather. We face serious challenges as we deal with the effects that our changing climate has on our communities. The time to invest further in enhancing our public lands is now. Thank you!”*

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Founded in 2014, [The Mountain Pact](#) mobilizes local elected officials in over 100 Western mountain communities with outdoor recreation based economies to speak with a collective voice on federal climate, public lands, and outdoor recreation policy.