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January 13, 2003

Mr. Steve Bennett, Acting Field Manager
Glenwood Springs Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
50629 Highway 6
PO Box 1009
Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81602

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Garfield County is in receipt of your "Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan Amendment, Information for Public Review", dated October 14, 2002 and the series of maps relating to alternatives analysis for the update of your Resource Management Plan for the Roan Plateau Planning Unit.

We understand that at this point in your environmental and management assessment process you are seeking feedback from local governments on the range and extent of the alternatives delineation that has been developed to date.

Garfield County is also in receipt of a draft Memorandum of Understanding that would place Garfield County as a Cooperating Agency in the process of refining the Resource Management Plan for the Roan Plateau analysis.

On the first matter, Garfield County has already received extensive feedback from constituents on the proposed alternatives being reviewed for the Roan Plateau. While this is to be expected on release of a document of this importance to the region, we understand that this feedback is premature and that alternative selection and feedback is some distance off in the public involvement process. Our understanding is that you now desire to ascertain whether the range of alternative options represents a fair and even-handed approach to future management alternatives.

Garfield County would like to commend BLM staff in the Glenwood Springs Regional Office for a full and comprehensive set of alternatives, and sub-sets of alternatives, that represent all interests in the region. Our analysis shows that concerns and interests

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cc: Steve

WILDERNESS SOCIETY

RECEIVED

DATE: 01/17/03

FROM: 303 650 5942

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specific designations being with these specific revenue sources to manage an alternative option, this should be considered in alternatives analysis.

3. Mapping and Delineation As an additional concern relating to the previous comment, some of the maps showing 'screens' of areas of concern on the Plateau were far too detailed for management purposes. While important for analysis of the resource base, small and discrete displays of "islands and protrusions" of issues of concern may serve well for analysis but not for management. At some point in the decision-making process, very complex boundaries for resource and concern areas need to be "softened and consolidated" into understandable and defensible management and enforcement units so that all users of the area know what is to be allowed and expected.

The Memorandum of Understanding as submitted to us as a draft is fully acceptable with the one exception of item "B. A" which now reads "Review and provide comments within 15 days of receipt for the following sections of the draft EIS..."

As I'm sure you can understand, the County has a variety of departments and procedures for review of important land use documents and agreements that may very well require more than 15 days to review any draft or final document. This should read 30 days.

We may, at our discretion, desire to hold a public hearing or series of public hearings, and assemble our responses based on public input. We trust that we would do that in conjunction with you and your staff.

With a modification of the MOU to reflect that specific issue, with an time constraints, we would be more than pleased to enter into a cooperative partnership in your efforts to define the future for the Roan Plateau.

Sincerely,

John Martin, Chairman
Garfield County Board of County Commissioners

