

# Safeguarding our Western Landscape

**Roan Plateau is a visually stunning, undeveloped island of public land and part of our natural and cultural heritage.**

The Roan Plateau is the scenic backdrop to our communities.

- The 3,500 foot Roan Cliffs tower above the Colorado River, scenery that is a cornerstone of community pride.<sup>1</sup>
- Atop the Plateau are quiet trout streams, dramatic box canyons, and the East Fork waterfall, one of Colorado's tallest.<sup>2</sup>
- Aspen mixed with spruce, maple, and oak are a recipe for spectacular fall colors.
- Stands of old-growth Douglas-fir provide shady vistas that overlook hundreds of miles of Colorado's finest scenery.<sup>3</sup>



The Roan Plateau is rich in natural heritage and local history.



- The Roan Plateau is named for the horses raised there by Ute Indians.<sup>4</sup>
- The Plateau was the scene of western range wars, like the "Peach Day Massacre" when cattlemen drove 4,000 sheep off the Roan Cliffs.<sup>5</sup>
- Over 40,000 acres of public lands in the Planning Area remain undeveloped in four key natural areas.<sup>6</sup> These undeveloped lands support deer and elk, black bear, mountain lion, and a hunting lifestyle that goes back generations. The Division of Wildlife has recommended that drilling be prohibited in these areas.<sup>7</sup>
- The Plateau includes more than 100 sites with notable artifacts.<sup>8</sup>

**The Roan Plateau's top and cliffs deserve to be protected, and the public lands managed for a range of uses, not only gas development.**

**With wide-scale energy development throughout the region, an even-handed plan for the Roan Plateau would safeguard recreational choices, wildlife and our open landscape, keeping the Plateau's top and cliffs as they are today: bold, dramatic and undisturbed.**

More 

Join us in promoting this even-handed vision for Roan Plateau.

**SaveRoanPlateau.org**

*Citizens' Campaign to Save Roan Plateau*

Visit us online or call Gregg at 970-243-0002 /Clare at 970-618-1341

## Roan Plateau Fact Sheet-Our Western Landscape

### Roan Plateau benefits our communities.

The Roan Plateau includes many natural values.

- With an elevation from 5,500 to over 9,000 feet, the Plateau encompasses a range of habitats, including pinion and juniper, scrubland, aspen-spruce and Douglas-fir.
- The Roan Plateau is one of the most biologically-diverse places in Western Colorado, only three other areas hold such a richness of species.<sup>9</sup>
- The Roan Plateau is home to one of the most genetically pure strains of Colorado River cutthroat trout in the world.<sup>10</sup>
- The Plateau hosts numerous rare plants and plant communities including the Parachute penstemon that occurs nowhere else in the world.<sup>11</sup>
- The Plateau is home to 17 rare wildlife species, including the peregrine falcon, Colombian sharptail grouse, and Townsend's big-eared bat.<sup>12</sup>



The Roan Plateau provides world-class recreation.

- The Plateau includes incredible opportunities for recreation and, with the surrounding lands, is a draw for tourists, new business, and retirees.
- The Roan Plateau draws 1,500 hunters annually and generates almost \$4 million.<sup>13</sup>
- Mountain biking and motorized use are also popular activities. Under the plan supported by local governments, citizens across the state, and conservation groups, nearly 140 miles of motorized roads would remain open, and Hubbard Mesa would be developed specifically for motorized and mechanized use.<sup>14</sup>
- BLM identified four critical areas for protection as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and three as eligible for wilderness designation. Twenty-four miles of creeks are eligible for Wild and Scenic designation.<sup>15</sup>

**Keeping the Plateau's top and cliffs undeveloped, we could still develop most of the natural gas and leave the cliffs and uplands as they are today: bold, dramatic, and undisturbed.**

**TELL BLM TO keep drilling off the top of roan plateau!**

**WRITE : BLM-Roan Plateau Planning/POB 1009/Glenwood Springs, CO 81602**

**FAX: 970-947-2829 PHONE: 970-947-2800**

**EMAIL: [Jamie\\_Connell@co.blm.gov](mailto:Jamie_Connell@co.blm.gov)**

<sup>1</sup>Letter from the City of Rifle to BLM. 4/29/03

<sup>2</sup>Roan Plateau RMP Amendment: Evaluation of Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. BLM, 8/2002

<sup>3</sup>Executive Summary: Roadless Review and Wilderness Character Inventory Findings for the Roan Plateau. BLM, 3/2000

<sup>4</sup>"A Brief History of the Roan Plateau," Roan Plateau newsletter. BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office, 11/2001

<sup>5</sup>Garfield County Comprehensive Plan Revision: Study Area Five. Garfield County Building and Planning Department, 3/2002

<sup>6</sup>GIS data of the Citizens' Wilderness Proposal. Colorado Environmental Coalition, 7/2001

<sup>7</sup>Colorado Division of Wildlife recommendation to preserve, protect, enhance and manage the wildlife values associated with the Bureau of Land Management's Roan Plateau Planning Area. Dated 7/18/03. (Obtained through public document request by Pete Kolbenschlager).

<sup>8</sup>"A Brief History of the Roan Plateau," Roan Plateau newsletter. BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office, 11/2001

<sup>9</sup>Biological Survey on the Roan Plateau. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, 1996

<sup>10</sup>Colorado River Cutthroat Trout on the Roan Plateau. BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office monograph, 1/2003

<sup>11</sup>Candidate and Listing Priority Assignment Form for the Parachute Beardtongue (*Penstemon debilis*). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3/27/02

<sup>12</sup>Roan Plateau RMP Amendment: Evaluation of Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. BLM, 8/2002

<sup>13</sup>Email from CDOW staff. Dated 8/11/03. (Obtained through public document request by Pete Kolbenschlager).

<sup>14</sup>Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan Amendment, Comparison of Six Preliminary Alternatives. BLM, 10/14/02

<sup>15</sup>Ibid.