

TOWN OF SILT
RESOLUTION NO. 2
SERIES 2005

COPY

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTING THE TOP AND CLIFFS OF THE ROAN PLATEAU AND FOR ADOPTING THE "COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE" INTO THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S FINAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE ROAN PLATEAU PLANNING AREA

WHEREAS, the Roan Plateau Planning Area of Garfield County provides outstanding opportunities for backcountry recreation, such as backpacking, hunting, mountain biking, camping, fishing, wildlife viewing, scenic drives and encounters with solitude, and these historic uses contribute significantly to the local and national economy; and

WHEREAS, the top and cliffs of the Roan Plateau includes important mid-elevation wildlife habitat, an extremely high level of biological diversity, including several species of endemic plants, and is considered by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program to be one of the four most biologically diverse places in western Colorado and the only one without any protections; and

WHEREAS, the top and cliffs of the Roan Plateau provide an undeveloped island of important public land resources in the rapidly growing upper Grand Valley, and among the rapidly expanding Piceance Basin gas fields, and is the scenic backdrop for Rifle, Silt, Parachute and Battlement Mesa, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, during an earlier public comment period the Town of Silt and every municipality in Garfield County have supported this middle ground approach; and

WHEREAS, public lands at the base of the Roan Plateau along the I-70 corridor are currently being developed for oil and gas, and it is reasonable to require industry to use the best available technology to protect the sensitive and unique resources of the Roan Plateau Planning Area, and it is reasonable to focus energy development in these areas using these technologies in order to maximize resource extraction, utilize existing infrastructure, and minimize scenic and environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, Garfield County is already helping to provide for America's energy needs, and sufficient access to abundant energy supplies already exists throughout the County and region, and large portions of public lands inside and near the planning area are already leased or in energy production; and

WHEREAS, the "community alternative" is a common sense approach which honors the community's desire to protect the top and cliffs, and allows responsible development of over two thirds of the planning area, and provides for retrieval of over 85% of the federal natural gas likely to be produced during the next twenty years without leasing any of the public lands on top of the Plateau; and

WHEREAS, advancing technologies hold promise of extracting additional natural gas from underneath the Plateau and along its base over the twenty year life of this plan allowing even more of the Planning Area's reserves to be developed, and that requiring high standards to protect the sensitive and popular lands atop the Plateau and along its cliffs also stimulates innovation and the development of new production technologies; and

WHEREAS, the "community alternative" keeps the top and cliffs of the Roan Plateau mostly "as it is" while still managing the area for responsible energy development and other public uses such as grazing, hunting, hiking, fishing and other recreation, which are all important public uses and contribute greatly to our residents' quality of life and to our visitors' enjoyment of the area; and

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN OF SILT, COLORADO, BOARD OF TRUSTEES supports protection of the undeveloped top and cliffs of the Roan Plateau, and opposes gas development on the cliff faces and top of the Plateau during the life of the proposed management plan for the Planning Area; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Silt supports the "Community Alternative" as the best alternative for management of the public resources in the planning area. Specifically, the Town of Silt supports the attached provisions of this community alternative, and urges that the BLM incorporate these changes into the final management plan for the Roan plateau; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that in addition to being included as official comment for the record in the BLM's planning process, that a copy of this resolution be immediately submitted to the Garfield County Board of Commissioners, State Senator, Jack Taylor, and State Representatives Al White and Kathleen Curry and to the members of Colorado's Congressional delegation.

INTRODUCED READ, PASSED AND APPROVED, at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Silt, Colorado held on the 24th day of January 2005.

TOWN OF SILT

ATTEST:



John Evans

Mayor, John Evans

Sheila M. McIntyre

Town Clerk, Sheila M. McIntyre