



BLM Resource Advisory Councils

Partners Across The West

COLORADO NORTHWEST RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Resolution in Support of BLM Regarding the Supplemental EIS on the Roan Plateau.

WHEREAS, the Northwest Resource Advisory Council has long been involved in the management plan for the Roan Plateau;

WHEREAS, the current BLM plan and decision for the Roan Plateau was developed over eight years with the close involvement of cooperators such as the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and local communities;

WHEREAS, the current BLM plan and decision for the Roan Plateau balances developing the area's natural gas resource with protecting its important natural resources, and balances impacts from development on top with those below the rim of the plateau;

WHEREAS, the June 2012 U.S. District Court's remand was limited to two specific concerns related to air quality and one addressing an additional alternative, and does not require BLM to "start over" for the Roan Plateau plan;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management identified preliminary issues for analysis in the January 28, 2013 Notice of Intent;

WHEREAS, the June 2012 U.S. District Court ruling upheld BLM's interpretation of the 1997 Transfer Act requiring BLM to lease the lands of the Roan Plateau;

WHEREAS, the June 2012 U.S. District Court ruling specifically did not cancel the existing oil and gas leases on the Roan Plateau; and

WHEREAS, the BLM has announced it will conduct a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to address the 2012 U.S. District Court's ruling that looks at a "full range of alternatives" and also recognize valid existing rights;

THEREFORE, Be it resolved that the Colorado Northwest Resource Advisory Council continues to support its resolution passed in November 2005 regarding the Roan Plateau management plan, and further recommends the BLM limit its SEIS for the Roan Plateau to the specific concerns raised by the June 2012 U.S. District Court ruling and issues raised in the Notice of Intent, subject to updated impact analysis associated with a revised reasonable foreseeable development scenario.

Passed, approved and adopted Aug. 22, 2013.

Received by Designated Federal Officer
James Cagney

Dean Riggs, Chair
Northwest Resource Advisory Council