



## COLORADO NORTHWEST RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2009-02

### Resolution in Support of Strengthening the BLM's Social Science Capabilities

**Whereas:** The Colorado Bureau of Land Management is responsible for management of the National System of Public Lands within Colorado;

**Whereas:** Management decisions for the National System of Public Lands have direct and indirect effects on the social and economic conditions of local communities that are interdependent with public lands resources;

**Whereas:** The Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council has a duty, pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, to representative citizen counsel and advice to the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM's Designated Federal Officer concerning the planning and management of public land resources;

**Whereas:** The analysis of effects and implementation of land use decisions requires high quality social and economic information to meet consistent national standards as well as thorough, transparent public involvement to address local and regional concerns;

**Whereas:** The BLM has undertaken a social science needs assessment to describe the BLM's current social science capabilities, define what capabilities are needed, identify and prioritize deficiencies and prepare an action plan for strengthening the BLM's social science capabilities;

**Whereas:** Improved social and economic analyses in BLM decision making will serve the interests of local communities, all public land users, and the American public;

**Therefore be it Resolved** that the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council supports the BLM's effort to assess and improve social and economic analysis and decision making based on improved incorporation of the social sciences in its management plans and implementation of decisions. Specifically, the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council that Colorado BLM:

1. Make available highly qualified social and economic subject matter experts within Colorado BLM (i.e. BLM state economists) to serve as specialists for social and economic information and analysis;
2. Supplement "in-house" social and economic science staff with qualified, experienced contractors on land use and implementation decisions;
3. Require a minimum standard approach for economic analysis and social assessments in all land-use-level and implementation-level decisions that includes interdisciplinary comparisons of the likely costs and benefits of alternatives. Include in such analyses substantial local and regional input, including information from local governments.

Passed, approved and adopted May 28, 2009.

Received by Designated Federal Officer  
Jamie Connell

T. Wright Dickinson, Chair  
Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council