



The Honorable Michael Bennet  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Hickenlooper  
375 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lauren Boebert  
1713 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-0603

Dear Senator Bennet, Senator Hickenlooper and Congresswomen Boebert:

Colorado Public Lands Council (PLC) represents the majority of public lands permittees in the state of Colorado and with this representation we offer the following letter specifically to the potential designation of the Dolores Canyon area as a monument. The area proposed for the Dolores Canyons National Monument is not “unprotected.” In fact, it’s currently mired in layers of protection. It may see more as the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) finalizes the Grand Junction Field Office Resource Management Plan Amendment (“RMPA”) and begins the Uncompahgre Field Office RMPA, both in response to a lawsuit from the environmentalists. The United States Forest Service (“USFS”) is also finalizing the revision of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison Forest Plan, which incorporates additional protections for habitat connectivity. Additionally, current administrative protections conserve and preserve important resource values, including various birds, big game, plant species, recreation, and historical and cultural resources.

Managed livestock grazing has been occurring in this area for now two centuries and most recently the majority is managed by the BLM. Allotment management plans are developed and implemented with all of the above-mentioned surface restrictions. Permittees who now manage their respective grazing allotments under a Monument designation are often subject to ever changing standards and guidelines and a public that often does not think grazing should be occurring in a National Monument. Additional restrictions are often used to limit the practicality and flexibility needed to address water conservation by adding unnecessary red tape and layers of bureaucracy and inefficiency in replacing aging agriculture infrastructure and innovative water storage solutions.



Permittees to the south of this area have worked for a decade to collaboratively develop a management plan for a National Conservation Area (NCA). Colorado PLC fully understands that this lengthy collaboration is not in line with Monument proponents, however as Western Colorado is home to three National Conservation Areas with fully developed management plans, we encourage all stakeholders to take the time to build a sustainable plan that includes all voices. NCAs develop resource management plans that have been through multiple rounds of scrutiny, allowing the public, local governments, and other federal agencies to evaluate, ask questions, and provide input before they were adopted by the federal agency with management authority for the area.

In summary, Colorado PLC is opposed to a National Dolores Canyon Monument and urge all stakeholders to build a longer lasting solution to protect an incredible landscape that is home to many uses.

Sincerely,

Robbie LeValley, Chair

Colorado Public Lands Council

Cc: Erin Karney, Colorado Cattlemen's Association

Mark Roeber, National Public Lands Council