

**RESOLUTION  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OURAY COUNTY**

**Re: Protection of GMUG Forest Roadless Areas**

**WHEREAS**, the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forest is currently undergoing its Forest Plan revision process and inviting public comment;

**WHEREAS**, the GMUG appears to have lost more than 20% of its remaining undeveloped areas to development within the past 20 years;

**WHEREAS**, undeveloped areas on the GMUG provide essential watershed functions and thus ensure clean water while protecting the essential water supply for western Colorado homes, communities, industry, agriculture, native fisheries and recreation;

**WHEREAS**, undeveloped areas on the GMUG provide unmatched recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, skiing, snowshoeing, rafting, kayaking, wildlife viewing and rock climbing;

**WHEREAS**, undeveloped areas on the GMUG provide critical habitat for wildlife such as black bear, elk, mule deer, and mountain lion, as well as threatened species such as the Gunnison sage grouse, northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, Canada lynx and Colorado cutthroat trout;

**WHEREAS**, undeveloped areas on the GMUG play an integral and essential role in preserving Colorado's quality of life;

**WHEREAS**, the Mountains to Mesas (M2m) plan is a biologically based plan to conserve our precious undeveloped areas and unique forest resources;

**WHEREAS**, establishing a system of protected areas as proposed in the M2m plan is vital to the economy of local communities by providing sustainable opportunities for outdoor recreation, hunting, tourism, and agriculture; and

**WHEREAS**, the M2m plan is a vision for the future to conserve certain undeveloped areas on the GMUG as habitat for wildlife and for our own solitude.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners supports the concepts outlined in the M2m conservation plan for the GMUG and urges the Forest Service to take appropriate portions of its provisions into consideration as part of the Forest Plan revision process while keeping existing uses by motorized vehicles in place.

Adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2005.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Batchelder, Chair

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Michelle Nauer, Clerk and Recorder

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Heidi M. Albritton, Vice-Chair

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Linda Munson-Haley,  
Deputy Clerk of the Board

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Kristi R. Westfall, Member