

Resolution No. ~~16~~-45-2010

**RESOLUTION
MONTROSE COUNTY COLORADO
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**IN OPPOSITION TO
DESIGNATION OF PORTIONS OF CERTAIN RIVERS IN MONTROSE COUNTY
UNDER THE FEDERAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT**

WHEREAS, Montrose County Colorado has numerous rivers and their tributaries flowing through it, including the San Miguel and Dolores Rivers; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) under the Department of the Interior has declared certain portions of the San Miguel and Dolores Rivers, and some of their tributaries as eligible for inclusion under the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 16 USC 1271-1287 as amended (the “Act”); and

WHEREAS, the Montrose County Board of Commissioners has reviewed the report produced by the BLM regarding inclusion of those river portions as suitable for designation under the Act; and

WHEREAS, after consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of such designation, the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners is of the opinion that it is not in the best interests of the citizens of Montrose County for the portions of these rivers and their tributaries to be designated for inclusion under the Act for the reasons set forth below in this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners does not consider the protections set forth the under the Act needed for these rivers and their tributaries because, among other reasons:

The rivers and their tributaries have adequate protection under state and federal laws already implemented, including BLM regulations, as well as Montrose County land use regulations.

The inclusion of the designated portions of these rivers and their tributaries would result in a fragmented system of multiple layers and levels of government agency regulation, which would make it difficult for the land owners under private ownership in the area.

The private land owners in the area of proposed designation have a vested interest in being good environmental stewards of the rivers and their banks and borders, and many have a long history as owners of the land.

The County Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Montrose County and those traveling through it, have a vested interest in being good environmental stewards of the rivers, their tributaries and the banks and boarders of those rivers and tributaries.

The need to consider responsible energy and mineral development in the area is important, not only to the citizens of Montrose County, but to the United States as a whole.

The health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Montrose County may be negatively impacted for numerous reasons, including the need to control water flow to prevent flooding; the need to control wildfires in the area and the inability to properly route county traffic flow that would occur as a result of such designations. The entire river corridor in considered the flood plain.

The economic health of Montrose County contributed to by, among others, agriculture and land use, stands to be negatively impacted at a time when many of the citizens of Montrose County are struggling economically.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners, for reasons set forth above, does oppose the designation and inclusion under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, of certain portions of the San Miguel and Dolores Rivers and certain tributaries of those rivers, all as located in Montrose County Colorado, as specified in the Final Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report for the BLM Uncompahgre Planning Area published June 2010.

This Resolution No. 10 45-2010 shall be effective upon signature done the 11th day of August, 2010.

ADOPTED THIS 11th DAY OF August, 2010 BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

ATTEST:



Marie Simons
Marie Simons, Deputy Clerk of the Board

MONTROSE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ronald Henderson
Ron Henderson, Chair

David White
David White, Vice Chair

Gary Ellis
Gary Ellis, Commissioner