

STATE OF COLORADO)
)ss.
COUNTY OF GARFIELD)

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for Garfield County, Colorado, held at the County Administration Building in Glenwood Springs on Monday, the 14th day of September 2009, there were present:

- Tresi Houpt, Commissioner
- Mike Samson, Commissioner
- John Martin, Commissioner Chairman
- Don K. DeFord, County Attorney
- Ed Green, County Manager
- Jean Alberico, Clerk to the Board

when the following proceedings, among others were had and done, to-wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 09- 67

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GARFIELD COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO IN SUPPORT OF THE DIVIDE CREEK COALITION

WHEREAS, Garfield County is a legal and political subdivision of the State of Colorado for which the Board of County Commissioners ("BOCC") is authorized to act by Section 30-11-103, C.R.S., as amended;

WHEREAS, the Thompson Divide Coalition is a broad-based coalition of local ranchers, farmers, hunters, anglers, recreationalists, conservationists and local governments, formed to address mutual concerns regarding oil and gas development on federal lands in the Thompson Creek, Coal Creek, Fourmile Creek, and Threemile Creek watersheds, Muddy Basin and the headwaters of East Divide Creek and the potential negative impacts on this rural area associated with oil and gas development; and

WHEREAS, ranching and farming in the area prioritized for protection by the Thompson Divide Coalition not only make important contributions to the local economy, both define the rural character of the area. These watersheds provide clean water to farms and ranches, as well as water for domestic use. In addition, these federal lands host grazing allotments for summer range for a large number of ranchers; and

WHEREAS, this area is part of a 122,000 acre largely roadless landscape which is the largest contiguous virtually roadless area in the State of Colorado. These federal lands provide important habitat for wildlife, and excellent hunting and



angling opportunities. The area has been recognized by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) as high priority habitat for a variety of species. It is part of a critical big game migration corridor and provides key wildlife security for species such as deer, elk, bear, and lynx. The entire area is important elk calving habitat and summer range for big game. In addition, the Colorado River cutthroat trout (recognized as a Species of Special Concern by CDOW is found in two forks of Thompson Creek. The streams also feature rare wetland shrub communities, and the old-growth forest is habitat for the boreal owl and northern goshawk; and

WHEREAS, the area offers exceptional recreational opportunities and is used regularly by local bikers, climbers, hikers, snowmobilers and cross country and back country skiers. The recreational opportunities these special areas provide local residents are an essential part of the high quality of life offered in Garfield County.

WHEREAS, oil and gas development in this area may have an impact upon the rural character, ranching heritage and agricultural heritage of Garfield County, and may alter the character of this area. Furthermore, energy development in this rural and largely roadless area may create public environmental, health and emergency management concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Thompson Divide Coalition recognizes the need for energy development and the validity of existing leases, it believes it is imperative that energy development occur only in appropriate places and that it proceed in a responsible matter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Garfield County, State of Colorado, as follows:

1. The Thompson Creek, Fourmile Creek, Threemile Creek, and Coal Creek Watersheds, headwaters of East Divide Creek, Muddy Basin, as well as the local community and environmental values and economy they support deserve preservation and protection; and

2. Unless conducted in appropriate places and in a responsible manner, energy development on federal lands in the Thompson Creek, Fourmile Creek, Threemile Creek, and Coal Creek watersheds, headwaters of East Divide Creek and Muddy Basin has

