

**ROARING FORK GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB  
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE THOMPSON DIVIDE COALITION**

**RECITALS**

**A. WHEREAS**, the Thompson Divide Coalition is a broad-based coalition of local ranchers, farmers, hunters, anglers, recreationalists, water users, land owners, conservationists and local governments, formed to address mutual concerns regarding the existing oil and gas leases on federal lands in the Thompson, Fourmile, Muddy, and Clear Fork Creek watersheds, and the headwaters of East Divide Creek and the potential negative impacts on this rural area associated with their development.

**B. WHEREAS**, ranching and farming in the Roaring Fork Valley not only make important contributions to the economy of the area, but define the rural character of the valley. 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 the majority of the areas' ranchers.

**C. WHEREAS**, the Thompson Divide area is part of a 122,000 acre roadless landscape, which is the largest contiguous roadless area in the state. 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 the CDOW) is found in two forks of Thompson Creek.

**D. WHEREAS**, the area offers exceptional recreational opportunities and is regularly used 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 by the valley.

**E. WHEREAS**, energy development in this area would have a deleterious impact on the rural character, ranching heritage and agricultural heritage of the valley and the town, and would forever ruin the wild character and exceptional habitat of this area. Furthermore, energy development in this rural and largely roadless area would create serious public environmental health and emergency management concerns, and potentially cause a marked increase in the need for social services that our jurisdiction is already struggling to provide.

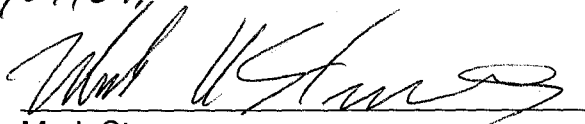
**F. WHEREAS**, although the Thompson Divide Coalition recognizes the need for energy development, it believes it is imperative that energy development

occur only in appropriate places and that it proceed in a responsible manner. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has approved 80 leases on this special landscape, half of which were let in roadless areas without surface stipulations after the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule was in effect.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by [NAME OF COUNTY, MUNICIPALITY, TOWN] that:

1. The Thompson, Fourmile, Muddy, and Clear Fork Creek Watersheds, and the headwaters of East Divide, as well as the local community, environmental, and economic values they support, deserve preservation and protection; and
2. Energy development on federal lands in the Thompson Creek, Fourmile Creek watershed, headwaters of East Divide Creek and Muddy Basin is inconsistent with such preservation and protection, and is indicative of a flawed and irresponsible approach to energy development; and
3. The Roaring Fork Group of the Sierra Club supports the efforts of the Thompson Divide Coalition over the next two years to explore legislative initiatives and other opportunities to protect these special areas from energy development.

The undersigned, being duly elected and acting Chair of the Roaring Fork Group of the Sierra Club, a non-profit organization, certifies that the above and foregoing is a full and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Executive Committee at their meeting on *9/21/09*.



Mark Stevens  
Chair, Roaring Fork Group of the Sierra Club