

RESOLUTION #06-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GILPIN COUNTY, COLORADO IN FAVOR OF PROTECTING THE NATIONAL FOREST ROADLESS AREAS, ESPECIALLY THOSE FOUND IN GILPIN COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Colorado General Assembly has created the Roadless Areas Review Task Force to make recommendations to Governor Owens regarding the management of roadless areas in Colorado's National Forests; and

WHEREAS, roadless areas in Gilpin County provide recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, camping, skiing, snowshoeing, rafting, kayaking, wildlife viewing, birding, and rock climbing; and

WHEREAS, roadless areas in Gilpin County are important to the local economy by providing opportunities for outdoor recreation, tourism and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, roadless areas in Gilpin County provide important watershed functions and water flows which protect our local water supply for homes, communities, industry, agriculture, native fisheries, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, roadless areas in Gilpin County provide critical habitat for wildlife and endangered and threatened plant and animal species; and

WHEREAS, roadless areas in Gilpin County play an integral role in preserving our local quality of life; and

WHEREAS, many people support the protection of all roadless areas in Gilpin County and the national forest.

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

1. That Gilpin County urges the Roadless Areas Review Task Force to recommend that Governor Bill Owens petition the U.S. Forest Service to protect all existing roadless areas in the national forest;
2. That Gilpin County strongly supports the protection of all currently existing roadless areas located in the County;
3. That management of the national forest roadless areas in Gilpin County should prohibit the construction or reconstruction of roads required for development activities such as logging, mineral development, or any kind of residential or commercial development, with the exception of valid and existing rights;
4. That within the context of protection of roadless areas, allowances should be made for preventing and handling emergency situations such as catastrophic fires and floods, and for maintaining and restoring ecosystem composition and structure through accepted measures for fire mitigation.

ADOPTED, this 2nd day of May, 2006, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Gilpin County Board of County Commissioners, by a vote of ___ to ___.

Forrest Whitman, Chair

ATTEST:

Sharon E. Cate, Deputy Clerk