

**TOWN OF NEW CASTLE, COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. TC-2006-8**

**A Resolution of the Town of New Castle, Colorado, in Favor of Protecting
the White River National Forest's Roadless Areas.**

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

WHEREAS, the White River National Forest is the nation's most visited National Forest, due to its outstanding recreational, economic, and ecological values; and

WHEREAS, New Castle is surrounded by the White River National Forest and the following roadless areas:

- Main Elk Creek: 7,181 acres
 - ◇ Prime habitat and recreation area on White River Plateau
 - ◇ Headwaters of Elk Creek (flows through town)

- East Divide Creek: 8,662 acres
 - ◇ Link between Gunnison N.F. and BLM lands south of New Castle and Silt
 - ◇ HIGH potential for oil and gas development
 - ◇ Baldy, East Willow, Thompson Creek, and Reno mountain form extensive roadless area outside of Carbondale, Glenwood, Silt and New Castle of 52,683 acres

- Baldy Mountain: 6,030 acres
 - ◇ Link between Gunnison N.F. and BLM lands south of New Castle and Silt
 - ◇ HIGH potential for oil and gas development
 - ◇ Baldy, East Willow, Thompson Creek, and Reno mountain form extensive roadless area outside of Carbondale, Glenwood, Silt and New Castle of 52,683 acres

- East Willow: 7,118 acres
 - ◇ Link between Gunnison N.F. and BLM lands south of New Castle and Silt
 - ◇ HIGH potential for oil and gas development
 - ◇ Baldy, East Willow, Thompson Creek, and Reno mountain areas form extensive roadless area outside of Carbondale, Glenwood, Silt and New Castle of 52,683 acres

- Reno Mountain: 12,375 acres
 - ◇ Link between Gunnison N.F. and BLM lands south of New Castle and Silt
 - ◇ HIGH potential for oil and gas development
 - ◇ Baldy, East Willow, Thompson Creek, and Reno mountain areas form extensive roadless area outside of Carbondale, Glenwood, Silt and New Castle of 52,683 acres; and

WHEREAS, the White River National Forest's roadless areas in Garfield County provide world-class, unmatched recreational opportunities, such as backcountry skiing, hiking, camping, rock climbing, biking, fishing, kayaking, snowmobiling, wildlife viewing, birding, horseback riding, and hunting; and

WHEREAS, the White River National Forest's roadless areas in Garfield County contribute significantly to the local economy by generating substantial dollars from outdoor recreation, tourism, and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the White River National Forest's roadless areas provide important watershed functions and water flows that protect water supplies for homes, communities, industry, agriculture, native fisheries, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, the White River National Forest's roadless areas are home to some of the nation's most scenic and visited Wilderness Areas, including:

- Maroon Bells – Snowmass Wilderness
- Flat Tops Wilderness
- Hunter-Fryingpan Wilderness
- Holy Cross Wilderness
- Raggeds Wilderness
- Collegiate Peaks Wilderness
- Eagles Nest Wilderness
- Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness; and

WHEREAS, the White River National Forest's roadless areas contain critical habitat for wildlife such as the re-introduced lynx, black bear, elk, mule deer, mountain lion, and threatened/endangered species such as the Bald eagle, Northern goshawk, Peregrine falcon, Colorado cutthroat trout, and Canyon bog orchid; and

WHEREAS, the White River National Forest's roadless areas define Colorado's natural beauty, known throughout the nation as the "West of the Imagination;" these areas contribute greatly to our local economy, preserve our quality of life, and serve as our last places of natural solitude; and

WHEREAS, preservation of the White River National Forest's roadless areas in Garfield County will protect the heart of our surrounding forest while still allowing existing uses to continue; and

WHEREAS, Coloradoans have submitted over 96,000 public comments to the U.S. Forest Service supporting the Roadless Area Conservation Rule and supporting strong protection for Colorado's roadless areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF NEW CASTLE, COLORADO, RESOLVES THAT:

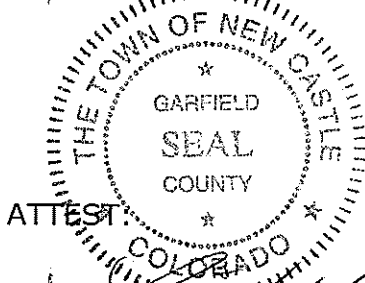
1. The Town Council incorporates the foregoing recitals as findings and determinations, and conclusively makes all of the findings of fact, determinations, and conclusions contained herein.

2. The Town requests the Roadless Areas Review Task Force recommend that Governor Bill Owens petition the United States Forest Service to protect all of the

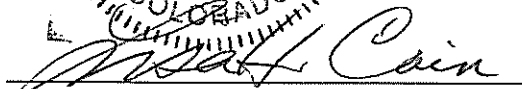
White River National Forest's roadless areas.

3. Within the context of preservation of roadless areas, allowances should be made for preventing and handling emergency situations for the protection of county residents.
4. The Town strongly supports the protection of all currently existing roadless areas within the White River National Forest, as inventoried by the U.S. Forest Service in the 2001 Final Environmental Impact Statement.
5. Management of the White River National Forest's roadless areas, while preserving valid and existing rights, should prohibit the future construction or reconstruction of roads for development activities such as logging, mineral development, or any kind of residential or commercial development.

THIS RESOLUTION was introduced, read, passed and adopted by the Town Council of the Town of New Castle on June 6, 2006.



ATTEST


Lisa H. Cain, Town Clerk

TOWN OF NEW CASTLE, COLORADO

By: 
Frank Breslin, Mayor