

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-08

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO,
IN FAVOR OF PROTECTING THE SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST ROADLESS
AREAS, ESPECIALLY THOSE FOUND IN LA PLATA 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 the San Juan National Forest and La Plata 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 the San Juan National Forest and La Plata County are important to the local economy by providing opportunities for outdoor recreation, tourism, and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Roadless areas in the San Juan National Forest and La Plata 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 the San Juan National Forest and La Plata County provide critical habitat for wildlife such as black bear, elk, mule deer, mountain lion, and threatened species such as northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, and Colorado cutthroat trout; and

WHEREAS, Roadless areas in the San Juan National Forest and La Plata County play an integral role in preserving our local quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Many people support the protection of all roadless areas in La Plata County and the San Juan National Forest.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That La Plata County urges the Roadless Areas Review Task Force to recommend that Governor Bill Owens petition the United States Forest Service to protect all existing roadless areas in the San Juan National Forest.

2. That La Plata County strongly supports the protection of all currently existing roadless areas located in La Plata County. Therefore, the following inventoried roadless areas (as described in the map presented by the U.S. Forest Service at the December 9, 2005 Hearing) should remain as they are to best address the needs and concerns of the county and its residents:

- a. Hermosa
- b. HD Mountains
- c. La Plata
- d. East Animas and West Needle
- e. Baldy and Florida River
- f. Weminuche Adjacent, Runlett Park, and Piedra Area Adjacent

3. That management of the above-mentioned areas 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 fire in which county residents may be damaged without action.

DONE AND ADOPTED IN DURANGO, LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO, this 28th day of February, 2006.

Attest

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO

Clerk to the Board

Wallace "Wally" White, Chair

Robert A. Lieb, Vice Chair

Sheryl D. Ayers, Commissioner