



Board of County Commissioners

Eric Stiasny Commissioners
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March 3, 2025

Senator Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for Dolores River Canyon National Conservation Area legislation


Senator Bennet,

I am writing you on behalf of the Dolores County Board of County Commissioners to show support for the proposed National Conservation Area (NCA) along the lower Dolores River. The NCA proposed comes decades in the making through an exemplary collaborative effort of local governments, conservation groups, agricultural entities, OHV users, recreationists, and water users. We greatly appreciate the time and effort from stakeholders that have gone into the formulation of the NCA.

By adopting the proposed NCA, the lower Dolores River would receive protection sought after through a Wild and Scenic designation without the increased limitation of access to natural resources and ultimately severe consequences for water users. To be clear, designating portions of the lower Dolores River under the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act would be extremely detrimental to citizens and stakeholders in multiple counties.

We believe the NCA proposal can be a shining example of protection without undue limitations, all achieved by an incredible collaborative effort. We hope to further this collaboration by working with your office to see this legislation enacted into law.

Sincerely,


Eric Stiasny, Chair

Dolores County Board of County Commissioners