

Senator Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
Attn: John_Whitney@bennet.senate.gov

Dear Senator Bennet,

The Town of Dove Creek would like to express support of the Dolores River National Conservation Area and Special Management Area Act introduced in both the Senate and House last month. The lands surrounding the Dolores River are very important for the community of Dove Creek for the economy, agriculture, recreation, and culture.

Community members and visitors alike depend on the lands included in the legislation for hunting, fishing, and motorized and non-motorized recreation. It is common that people living in Dove Creek will drive to the river to fish and drive ORV's up the road adjacent to the river with their families.

As you know, this legislation offers truly bi-partisan support from the county level, and was created with diverse interests that came to the table with good faith. Dolores County worked with Montezuma and San Miguel Counties and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, as well as other groups and individuals representing agriculture and the environment for over ten years to seek a proposal that works for everyone. This process and ensuing legislation illustrates why local solutions rather than top-down federal decisions are necessary to ensure the best decisions and management actions are taken.

The management prescriptions and land designations in the bill would allow certain activities to continue, while other actions would ensure lands be conserved. Further, the Advisory Council that would be created would provide equal and diverse representation through the processes of creating a Resource Management Plan with the Bureau of Land Management.

Thank you for your strong support for public lands and appreciate the time and effort it took to get this bill to protect the Dolores River introduced. Please let us know if we can help further this legislation.

Sincerely,

*Frank Mart, Mayor of Dove Creek on
behalf of the Board of Trustees*