

August 23, 2022

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Dolores River Canyon National Conservation Area and Special Management Area Act (S.4542)

Dear Senator Bennet:

I am writing to express The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) support for the Dolores River Canyon National Conservation Area and Special Management Area Act (S.4542).

TNC is a global conservation organization with over 1 million members and 30,000 members in Colorado. TNC has long recognized the rich natural values of southwest Colorado and the importance of conserving lands and waters to ensure that nature and the local communities thrive. In southwest Colorado, TNC owns and manages preserves, conservation easements, and continues to work to secure stream flows, healthy riparian areas and robust local communities.

TNC has participated in the discussions about the creation of a Dolores National Conservation Area for many years. We are extremely pleased that you have introduced legislation at the request of stakeholders, including the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and three county commissions. Additionally, we strongly support the provisions in the act that address the management of stream flows and annual reporting on progress with respect to the conservation, protection, and enhancement of native fish. TNC was engaged in the creation of the Native Fish Monitoring and Recommendation Team and supports their on-going work to protect and manage the fishery downstream of McPhee Reservoir.

Again, we greatly appreciate your work with stakeholders to develop and introduce this legislation. Please let us know how we can assist in moving this proposal forward.

Sincerely,



Carlos Fernandez  
Colorado State Director  
The Nature Conservancy  
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