

STATE OF COLORADO)
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County of Garfield)

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for Garfield County, Colorado, held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Garfield County Administration Building in Glenwood Springs on Monday, the 11th day of May A.D. 2015, there were present:

- John Martin _____, Commissioner Chairman
- Mike Samson _____, Commissioner
- Tom Jankovsky _____, Commissioner
- Andrew Gorgey _____, County Manager
- Tari Williams _____, Deputy County Attorney
- Jean Alberico _____, Clerk of the Board

when the following proceedings, among others were had and done, to-wit:

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DATA QUALITY ACT CHALLENGE REGARDING SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY AND GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

Recitals

1. Garfield County supports management of greater sage-grouse through state, local and private conservation efforts rather than federal land-use restrictions or a federal listing under the Endangered Species Act (“ESA”);
2. A coalition of counties, agricultural, mining and energy interests (the “Coalition”) has challenged BLM’s NTT Report, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s COT Report and the USGS sage grouse Monograph (the “Reports”) under the federal Data Quality Act;
3. These challenges detail at great length serious questions of scientific integrity and transparency with the Reports;
4. Federal agencies are relying upon the Reports to amend some 98 land use plans across approximately 50 million acres of BLM managed land and nine million acres of National Forests in eleven western states;
5. The DQA requires federal agencies to ensure and maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information disseminated;
6. The Reports fail to meet basic standards of science, resulting in misinformed policies and restrictions; and

7. Reliance on this biased and faulty information has and will continue to harm the public, greater sage-grouse and western economies.

RESOLUTION

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Garfield County, Colorado, that:

- A. The forgoing Recitals are incorporated by this reference as part of this resolution.
- B. State management of wildlife is better suited to balance economic activities with robust protections for sage grouse as they were developed using a bottom-up process with input from diverse stakeholders, rather than the top-down approach taken by the federal agencies.
- C. The BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and USGS are urged to retract the Reports and withdraw them from consideration in land use plan amendments and the upcoming ESA listing decision for sage grouse.
- D. The state legislature is urged to adopt a similar resolution as this.
- E. Congress is urged to delay listing sage grouse under the ESA for a period no less than 10 years to support continued local, state and private conservation efforts for sage grouse without serious and adverse effects to private property rights, economic development and western communities.
- F. During this 10 year delay, the Secretary of Interior is urged to allow existing BLM and USFS Resource Management Plan provisions regarding greater sage-grouse habitat protection and conservation remain the guiding policy documents in Colorado.
- G. Following the 10-year period, the Secretary of Interior is urged to approve RMP Amendments (RMPA) that are void of policies driven by the Reports as contested by the DQA Challenge until such time as the science and policy can be independently verified and accepted.

Dated this _____ day of _____, A.D. 20_____.

ATTEST:

GARFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS, GARFIELD COUNTY,
COLORADO

Clerk of the Board

Chairman

Upon motion duly made and seconded the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

COMMISSIONER CHAIR JOHN MARTIN _____, Aye / Nay

COMMISSIONER MIKE SAMSON _____, Aye / Nay

COMMISSIONER TOM JANKOVSKY _____, Aye / Nay