



DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Dist. 1: C. Douglas Atchley - Dist. 2: Don Suppes - Dist. 3: J. Mark Roeber

February 16, 2018

Secretary Ryan Zinke
Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

Delta Board of County Commissioners are in full support of your efforts to reorganize the various agencies housed within Department of Interior to work more efficiently and to engage local stakeholders in a more meaningful fashion. In addition, we appreciate your direction to streamline the NEPA process. One solution that we might put forward as a county who has had to endure numerous project delays due to extended NEPA review is when a project is multi-jurisdictional is to designate the lead agency and that agency conduct the necessary NEPA analysis. When each agency conducts their own NEPA, unnecessary delays are the outcome.

Continuing with the theme of improving efficiency and on-the-ground understanding, Delta County urges you to consider the re-location of the national headquarters for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the Western Slope of Colorado. Delta County is home to the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and joins Montrose and Mesa County in surrounding the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area. Both of the NCAs were put forward for congressional approval with strong community support and all of the counties continue to take an active role in the partnership role of management. These two areas would allow the National BLM to have a strong connection to the lands they manage and provides easy access to transportation amenities located in the surrounding areas.

Sincerely,
Delta Board of County Commissioners


C. Douglas Atchley, Chairman


J. Mark Roeber, Vice Chairman


Don Suppes, Commissioner