



“Voice of the Western Slope since 1953”
A coalition of counties, communities, businesses & individuals

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97-3 NR 2

Fire, Federal Fire Management Policy

WHEREAS: CLUB 20 has previously expressed its concern about the growing use of prescribed fires in federal land management, because fire can destroy economically viable resources and pollute the air, and

WHEREAS: There is nevertheless a vital need for fire to be used as a proper management tool for regenerating the natural environment in many areas, and federal **land** management agencies have been increasing their study and use of fire in such cases, often with the consent and encouragement of local communities, and

WHEREAS: The existing Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Land Management and local governments provides a useful model for such agreements, so that prescribed fire can be used properly in many areas, and

WHEREAS: There remains concern that prescribed fires often destroy economically viable resources and add to the pollution and visibility problems, often unnecessarily because carefully controlled mechanical clearing in advance of a prescribed fire can salvage otherwise wasted resources and greatly reduce the resulting air pollution,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports the carefully planned use of prescribed fires as a proper management tool for regenerating the natural environment, provided that:

- More consideration should be given to smoke management as prescribed fires are planned, and methods for reducing emissions by clearing appropriate materials in advance should be used;
- Considerable attention should be given to economically viable resources as prescribed fires are planned.

Adopted March 7, 1997