



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

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**RIGHT-OF-WAY FEES FOR PLACEMENT AND RELOCATION
OF FIBER OPTIC CABLES AND OTHER UTILITY FACILITIES**

WHEREAS rural communities in Colorado will have a need to access the nation’s advanced telecommunications network as future telecommunications infrastructure development investments are made, including the placement of fiber optic cables across public lands, and

WHEREAS the US Bureau of Land Management has proposed in the past to increase right-of-way rental fees for access to regional and national fiber optics links on BLM land in the Four Corners Region of Western Colorado from a few thousand dollars to \$500,000 per year, or an increase of over 150 times over the current fee structure, and

WHEREAS utility companies that provide telecommunications services, including broadband access to the Internet, gas, electric and water are critical components of Western Colorado’s present and future economic growth, development and prosperity, and

WHEREAS the facilities utility companies use to provide critical utility services are lawfully located in public rights-of-way maintained and controlled by units of federal, state and local government, special districts, political subdivisions and other public entities, and

WHEREAS a unit of federal, state or local government, special district, political subdivision or other public entity in Colorado, in the reasonable exercise of its authority, may require that a utility company change or relocate its facilities lawfully located in public rights-of-way, and

WHEREAS utility companies require advance notice in order to change or relocate their facilities lawfully located in public-rights-of way in a timely manner to make way for road and highway construction and other and other public projects, and

WHEREAS unreasonable rental fee increases for access to public lands could jeopardize the future construction of regional fiber optic links in Western Colorado to the nation’s advanced telecommunications network;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 opposes any proposal to charge excessive fees for access to public lands for future critical telecommunications infrastructure investment, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Club 20 supports the fees for any permits issued to perform work in the public rights-of-way by units of federal, state or local government, special districts, political subdivisions and other public entities in Colorado shall be reasonably related to the costs directly incurred to the granting or administration of permits and shall be reasonably related in time to the occurrence of such costs.

Adopted March 3, 2000
Amended 9/5/08