



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

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Canyon of the Ancients National Conservation Area

WHEREAS: U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt has announced his intentions to ask President Clinton to proclaim 164,000 acres of BLM land in Western Montezuma and Dolores counties as a national monument, and

WHEREAS: Secretary Babbitt has repeatedly stated "doing nothing is not an option" emphasizing if Congress does not act, he and President Clinton will act by executive order before leaving office, and

WHEREAS: the Bureau of Land Management's Southwestern Regional Advisory Council responded to Secretary Babbitt's challenge by creating a local working group insisting on immediate and open public involvement in the creation of the Canyons of the Ancients National Conservation Area, and

WHEREAS: The working group gathered input and produced a summary report stressing locally supported guiding principles in the creation of the Canyons of the Ancients National Conservation Area. The principles include support increased funding for archaeological stabilization, expanded local stewardship efforts, protection of private landowners' rights and easements to private lands within the area, and the protection of multiple uses under BLM management. Multiple uses include grazing, oil and gas operations, archaeological research, and all forms of recreation.

WHEREAS: Senator Campbell has introduced legislation based on the local working group's guiding -principles including a provision to establish a local advisory group to assist in developing a management plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB appreciates and supports Senator Campbell's introduction of legislation to create the Canyons of the Ancients National Conservation Area, following the guiding principals established by the Southwestern Resource Advisory Council's local working group and demand that Secretary Babbitt be required to be guided by such principles.

Adopted March 3, 2000