



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

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**00-3 PL 7**  
**Federal Land Designations, Executive Powers**

**WHEREAS:** CLUB 20 supports the local processes in the creation of legislation designating "The Canyons of Ancients" and "The Black Ridge/ Ruby Canyon" National Conservation Areas, endorsed by separate CLUB 20 Resolutions, and

**WHEREAS:** Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt has repeatedly threatened Presidential Proclamations creating changes in Federal Lands designation throughout the Western United States, including portions of Western Colorado, and

**WHEREAS:** Secretary Babbitt has repeatedly stated "doing nothing is not an option", emphasizing if Congress does not act, he will approach President Clinton with a proposal to make the designations by administrative order, and

**WHEREAS:** The President of the United States is exempt from the NEPA process, but the Secretary of the Interior is not exempt; therefore, approaching the President with a specific land designation change by the Secretary of the Interior is by definition a violation of the NEPA process, and

**WHEREAS:** Federal Lands Designations have traditionally been the purview of the Legislative Branch of the U.S. Government, and

**WHEREAS:** The statements and actions by Secretary Babbitt are construed to be threats and have the appearance of holding the citizens in affected areas hostage.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that CLUB 20 opposes the tactics of Secretary Babbitt and implores that further expansion or creation of national monuments and conservation areas should only be undertaken with express authorization of Congress and pursuant to established designation procedures.

**Adopted March 3, 2000**