



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

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**00-3 PL 2**

**Ruby Canyon and Black Ridge National Conservation Area**

**WHEREAS:** U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt has announced his intentions to extend greater protection to certain public lands in Western Mesa County.

**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 Northwest Resource Advisory Council responded to Secretary Babbitt's interest in further protection by encouraging legislative action to create a National Conservation Area (NCA), including a wilderness designation for the Black Ridge Wilderness study area, and

**WHEREAS:** The Bureau of Land Management should continue to be responsible for all management of the proposed NCA. Management principles should include protection of current hunting and fishing uses, protection of existing wildlife and recreational uses, and the protection of multiple uses under BLM management. Multiple uses include grazing, oil and gas operations, archaeological research, and all forms of recreation, and

**WHEREAS:** CLUB 20 has, and will, oppose any federal declaration of reserved water rights in land use decisions or designations.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that CLUB supports the designation of Ruby Canyon and Black Ridge National Conservation Area under the management of the Bureau of Land Management protecting current and historic multiple uses of the area.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CLUB 20 insist that any new Water Right that the Secretary of Interior determines is necessary for the purposes of this designation shall be established in accordance with the procedural requirements of the State of Colorado.

**Adopted March 3, 2000.**