



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

(970) 242-3264 ★ FAX (970) 245-8300
P.O. Box 550 ★ Grand Junction, CO 81502-0550
www.club20.org

02-3 WA 2

ASPINALL UNIT OPERATIONS

WHEREAS In January of 1962, the United States acquired water rights decreed in the Colorado Water Court for storage and power generation at the Aspinall Unit from the Colorado River Water Conservation District; and

WHEREAS The United States has already committed to numerous uses of the storage pool in the Aspinall Unit in the form of written agreements including the 1975 Taylor Park Reservoir Operation and Storage Exchange Agreement, the 1995 Memorandum of Agreement Furnishing Water From the Aspinall Unit for the Benefit of the Endangered Fishes, and the Agreement for the Administration of Water Pursuant to the Subordination of Aspinall Unit Water Rights Within the Upper Gunnison River Basin; and

WHEREAS The United States has already dedicated Aspinall Unit storage water for use as the reasonable and prudent alternative to avoid jeopardy in Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultations for the Dolores and Dallas Creek Projects, and has committed to operate the Aspinall Unit as the reasonable and prudent alternative necessary to offset the impact of the depletions of the other Bureau of Reclamation projects in the basin on the Colorado River endangered fish; and

WHEREAS It is a policy of the United States that a portion of the water stored in the Aspinall Unit is available for sale for decreed uses as a means of developing Colorado's entitlement of water under the Colorado River Compact and the Upper Colorado Basin Compact subject to compliance with federal requirements (the so-called "marketable yield"); and

WHEREAS The future operation of the Aspinall Unit is currently undergoing consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 asserts that future Aspinall Unit operations will be limited by and subject to existing commitments made by the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That future Aspinall Unit operations will honor and protect historic, existing water use practices in the basin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the amount of water available for future marketing purposes be limited by and subject to existing commitments made by the United States.

Adopted March 8, 2002