

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE TOWN OF NATURITA, CO
OPPOSITION TO DESIGNATION OF THE DOLORES CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 - R - 03

WHEREAS, request for designation by the President of the United States of a National Monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906 should be reserved for specific, limited situations in which a very specific antiquity is threatened, and should not be used as a substitute for legislation that is broadly supported by the local communities; and

WHEREAS, a group of activist and special interest organizations are attempting to have a large swath of land in Montrose and Mesa Counties designated as the Dolores Canyon National Monument, and have recruited support from national organizations, Front Range and unaffected West Slope communities, but have not until recently conducted any discussions with local residents, elected officials or businesses directly impacted by such designation; and

WHEREAS, Naturita has had a session to hear concerns of locals and finds that the overwhelming sentiment is against designation of the area as a national monument; and

WHEREAS, the concerns expressed by local residents include potential for limiting or halting current and future production of vanadium, uranium, and other valuable minerals essential to the development of clean nuclear energy, as well as the potential limitations on future management of the lands that could eliminate use of roads and outdoor recreation, such as the Rimrocker Trail, mountain biking and dirt biking trails, grazing, hunting, loss of water rights, timber production and severely discriminate against the elderly, disabled and handicapped citizens who would no longer have access; and

WHEREAS, national monuments are managed by federal agencies beyond the control of the local residents and elected officials, and the terms and conditions for their management can be changed without essential consideration of costs, detriments, overcrowding of the local communities or the effects to the economy; and

WHEREAS, the area being proposed for designation is already protected from unfettered development by designation as a potential wilderness area, and by other management plans adopted by the responsible federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, and not wishing to be included in the millions of acres of public lands

nationwide that have been closed off by the Department of Interior or the US Forest Service, this designation of a national monument is unnecessary, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Naturita and other surrounding communities have already experienced devastation to our economies through decisions of the federal and state governments to limit or eliminate the use of coal power, as well as oil and gas development, and are now only beginning to strategize for recovery with our own viable economic ideas, and desire not to be shut down again by special interest groups that purposefully included the entire Uravan Mineral Belt in the proposed monument designation and websites that clearly say they want to put a halt to mining, when we sit on the nation's most abundant critical mineral supply that will help support our economy, national security, produce clean energy and lower the dependency on foreign countries as mandated by several House Bills, executive orders and the Mining Act of 1872;

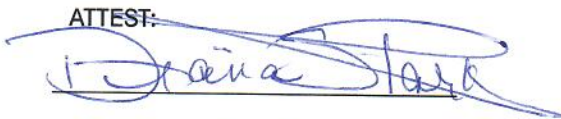
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF NATURITA, STATE OF COLORADO THAT:

The Town of Naturita will strongly oppose any effort to designate the Dolores River Canyon National Monument as proposed and will monitor and update progress of this initiative and strive to actively oppose including joining litigation to halt such designation as appropriate.

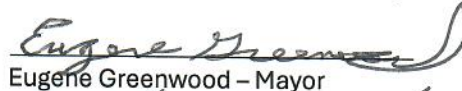
PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE TOWN OF NATURITA BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON THIS 26TH DAY OF MARCH 2024

TOWN OF NATURITA, COLORADO

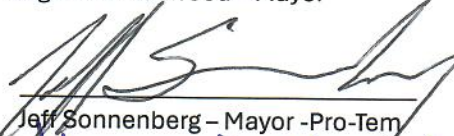
ATTEST:



Diana Starks Town Clerk



Eugene Greenwood - Mayor



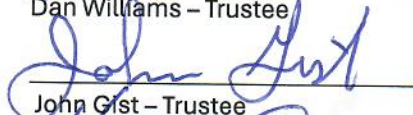
Jeff Sonnenberg - Mayor -Pro-Tem



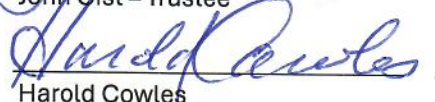
Sharon Different - Trustee



Dan Williams - Trustee



John Gist - Trustee



Harold Cowles