

STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

June 14, 2012

Ms. Helen Hankins
State Director, Colorado
U.S Bureau of Land Management
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215-7093

Mr. Dan Jiron
Regional Forester
Rocky Mountain Region
U.S. Forest Service
740 Simms Street
Golden, CO 80401

Dear State Director Hankins and Regional Forester Jiron:

This letter concerns the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Preferred Alternative B2 regarding Colorado River Segments 4 through 7 as identified in the Draft Resource Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement documents (RMP/DEIS Documents), and to express the State's support for adoption of this preferred alternative.

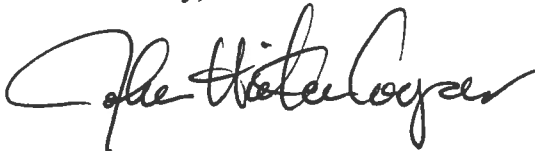
Preferred Alternative B2 is the Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group Management Plan (SG Plan), which was developed by a broad-based group of stakeholders, including sportsmen and environmental groups, water users, recreational users, private landowners and local governments. The Stakeholder Group worked together and in consultation with several divisions within the Colorado Department of Natural Resources since 2008 to develop the SG Plan to protect the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) identified in the BLM and USFS Eligibility Reports for Segments 4 through 7 of the Upper Colorado River. The purpose of the SG Plan is to "balance permanent protection of the ORVs, certainty for the stakeholders, water project yield, and flexibility for water users." This collaborative effort included developing a recommendation to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to appropriate instream flow water rights on the subject reaches of the Colorado River. The CWCB appropriated and filed water court applications for those instream flow water rights in 2011.

Implementation of the SG Plan is contingent upon the neutral deferral of any determination regarding suitability under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by BLM/USFS. The SG Plan will terminate if either agency enters formal findings that Segments 4, 5, 6 or 7 of the Upper

Colorado River are suitable or not suitable. Implementation is also contingent upon adoption of the SG Plan, without material changes, by the BLM in the Kremmling and Colorado River Valley Resource Management Plans and by the USFS in the White River National Forest Plan.

We commend the Stakeholder Group for its hard work and ability to develop a mutually acceptable way of protecting the ORVs while addressing the diverse stakeholders' interests and concerns, and we appreciate the willingness of the BLM and USFS to consider the SG Plan as a viable alternative. We urge the BLM and USFS to adopt Preferred Alternative B2 and believe that adoption and implementation of the SG Plan will result in the BLM and USFS fulfilling their responsibilities under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in a way that benefits all Coloradans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Hickenlooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John W. Hickenlooper

Cc: Marcilynn A. Burke, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management,
U.S. Department of the Interior

Harris Sherman, Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S.
Department of Agriculture

Bob Abbey, Director, Bureau of Land Management

Tom Tidwell, Chief, U.S. Forest Service