



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**
COLORADO

Senator Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
Attn: John_Whitney@bennet.senate.gov

Dear Senator Bennet,

We are writing on behalf of the Colorado Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers in support of the Dolores River National Conservation Area and Special Management Area Act introduced in the United States Senate in July by yourself and Senator Hickenlooper. Lands this legislation would help protect in Dolores, Montezuma, and San Miguel Counties are critical to supporting healthy wildlife populations and our hunting and angling heritage in this region of Southwest Colorado.

BHA's mission is ensuring North America's outdoor heritage of hunting and fishing in a natural setting through education and work on behalf of public lands, waters, and wildlife. The landscapes this bill would help to conserve are wild, arid, and rugged – and very susceptible to the impacts of climate change and development. A wide array of wildlife and aquatic species depend on this landscape including desert bighorn sheep, turkey, waterfowl, upland birds, mule deer, elk, and numerous native fish species.

The Dolores River and surrounding landscapes of the Colorado Plateau in this region offer stunning vistas and provide unparalleled desert backcountry hunting and angling opportunities in Colorado. With the strong community desire for protections for the Dolores River landscape and the bi-partisan backing of the proposal, we hope that the bill is able to move quickly through the congressional process.

Thank you for your strong support for public lands, waters, and wildlife and appreciate the time and effort it took to get this bill to protect the Dolores River introduced. Please let us know if we can help further this legislation.

Respectfully,

David Lien, Co-Chair
Don Holmstrom, Co-Chair
Colorado Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

