

**RESOLUTION NO. 31 - 2025**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
MONTROSE COUNTY, COLORADO, OPPOSING THE GUNNISON  
OUTDOOR RESOURCES PROTECTION (GORP) ACT.**

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2025, U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper, along with U.S. Representative Jeff Hurd, introduced the Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection (GORP) Act, proposing permanent federal land designations across approximately 730,000 acres of public lands in and around the Gunnison Basin; and

WHEREAS, the GORP Act would remove substantial acreage from future oil and gas leasing and impose surface occupancy restrictions, while also prohibiting new mining claims across vast areas, directly undermining multiple use management; and

WHEREAS, Montrose County relies on responsible timber harvesting for both economic viability and active wildfire mitigation. Wilderness and conservation designations in the GORP Act may restrict mechanical thinning and forest management necessary to reduce fire risk; and

WHEREAS, the Act’s proposed restrictions may obstruct fuel break construction and limit proactive wildfire mitigation, thereby increasing the risk of large scale fires threatening homes, livelihoods, and infrastructure across Montrose County; and

WHEREAS, cattle grazing is vital to Montrose County’s economy, culture, and land stewardship practices. Though the Act claims to preserve existing grazing rights, similar designations have historically resulted in increased regulatory oversight and reductions in grazing allocations; and

WHEREAS, hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation, including motorized use, dispersed camping, and trail access, are essential to the lifestyle and economic engine of Montrose County. The GORP Act's wilderness designations could severely limit access for residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, although the GORP Act does not designate lands within Montrose County itself, the proposed designations in neighboring counties including Gunnison, Delta, Saguache, and Ouray will have significant downstream and regional impacts on Montrose County. These include disruptions to water flow, limitations on traditional land use patterns, and constraints on industries such as ranching, timber harvesting, oil and gas, hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation that rely on access to surrounding federal lands and watershed systems; and

WHEREAS, the GORP Act may result in the long-term erosion of authority and access for counties like Montrose that depend on these lands for their way of life, local jobs, and future economic development; and

WHEREAS, the proposed restrictive land use policies outlined in GORP stand in direct contradiction to Presidential Executive Order #14156 declaring a National Energy Emergency whereby American energy and mineral resources must be used to reduce our dependence on foreign sources; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado ranks as the eight largest gas producing state in America and has the eighth largest natural gas reserves; and

WHEREAS, Montrose County supports land stewardship rooted in common sense, science, and balanced management, not blanket federal restrictions that ignore real-world impacts and harm rural communities; and

WHEREAS, this Board is committed to protecting the public's access to land, water, and natural resources in a way that preserves our economy, culture, and Constitution for future generations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONTROSE COUNTY:**

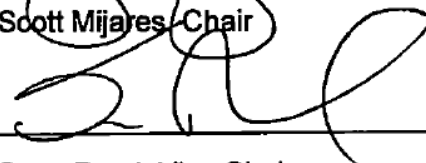
1. Montrose County stands in strong opposition to the GORP Act and any related legislation that imposes unnecessary federal designations on public lands. We affirm that all public lands should be kept open for multi-use access and managed appropriately with input from affected communities rooted in traditional land use, generational heritage, and balanced oversight.
2. The Board urges Colorado's full federal delegation, including Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper, and Representatives Diana DeGette, Joe Neguse, Lauren Boebert, Jeff Hurd, Doug Lamborn, Jason Crow, Brittany Pettersen, and Yadira Caraveo, to oppose the GORP Act. The Board encourages all members of the delegation to consider the full economic, environmental, and jurisdictional impacts of this legislation on Montrose County and the Western Slope.
3. Certified copies of this resolution shall be sent to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the Public Lands Council, all members of Colorado's congressional delegation, and members of the Senate and House Committees on Natural Resources and Energy.

4. The Board of County Commissioners of Montrose County encourages all Western Slope counties that rely on multi-use access to public lands to consider the long-term regional impacts of the GORP Act and to stand together in defense of access, economy, and the communities who rely on these lands for generational livelihoods.
5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Adopted on this 3rd day of September, 2025, at a meeting of the Montrose County Board of County Commissioners.

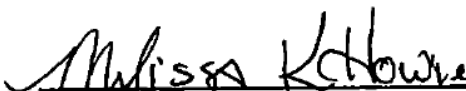
**MONTROSE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Mijares, Chair

  
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Sean Pond, Vice Chair

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Sue Hansen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk to the Board



