News Statement

Jon Goldin-Dubois, President of Western Resource Advocates, Statement on the Roan Plateau Settlement

COLORADO (November 21, 2014) – In response to the Roan Plateau settlement announced today by Bureau of Land Management and other parties:

“This is a balanced settlement that protects this very special place, the Roan Plateau. For years Western Resource Advocates has worked with our partners to protect the pristine Roan Plateau from oil and gas exploration and development. In 2006 WRA filed the first administrative challenge when President George W. Bush opened the previously unleased pristine Roan Plateau to oil and gas exploration and development. WRA co-counseled with Earthjustice in the ensuing federal litigation challenging the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) decision that would have condemned the Roan to intensive drilling.

Today’s settlement is good news for the Roan’s spectacular wildlife habitat and stunning scenery. This paves the way for a plan to protect this unique plateau. We look forward to working with BLM and other parties to ensure the new plan provides the needed protections proposed in the settlement.

This settlement is a balanced approach that protects public lands. Heartfelt thanks to Governor Hickenlooper, Senators Bennet and Udall, Representative Tipton, State Representative Bob Rankin and County Commissioner Jankovsky for their support on the agreement. We also wish to acknowledge our many conservation partners including Conservation Colorado, Earthjustice, the National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Rock the Earth, Rocky Mountain Wild, the Sierra Club, Trout Unlimited, the Wilderness Society, and Wilderness Workshop, who have stayed the course over the years with us to protect this amazing area of the West.”

For the last 25 years Western Resource Advocates has been the West’s premier group of experts protecting the region’s air, land and water. Go to www.westernresourceadvocates.org and follow us on Twitter @WRADV.