



*“Voice of the Western Slope since 1953”*  
*A coalition of counties, communities, businesses & individuals*

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**94-9 WA 1**  
**FEDERAL WATER RIGHTS, RESERVING IN WILDERNESS AREAS**

**WHEREAS:** the issue of reserved federal water rights in wilderness areas has been complex and controversial in Colorado since the 1980 RARE II legislative effort, and

**WHEREAS:** the most recent Colorado Wilderness Bill included a very delicate water language compromise, worked out after difficult negotiations between Members of the Colorado congressional delegation and interested groups over a period of more than ten years, and

**WHEREAS:** Attorney General Janet Reno has proposed to re-open the issue of whether the Wilderness Act of 1964 created a federal reserved water right, leading to deep concern that the entire battle may flare again with unknown consequences,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that CLUB 20 reaffirms its belief that the issue of reserved federal water rights in wilderness areas was satisfactorily addressed by the 1992 Wilderness Bill.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CLUB 20 strongly opposes a re-opening of this issue now by the Justice Department and urges the Colorado congressional delegation to use its influence to keep the matter closed.

**Adopted September 9, 1994**