

HIGH COUNTRY CITIZENS' ALLIANCE
PO Box 1066 • Crested Butte, Colorado 81224
(970) 349-7104 • FAX: (970) 349-0164
Office@hccaonline.org • www.hccaonline.org

February 6, 2006

NEPA Draft Report Comments
c/o Task Force
Committee on Resources
nepataskforce@mail.house.gov

Dear NEPA Task Force and Committee on Resources,

High Country Citizens' Alliance formed 29 years ago to prevent a large mine project from happening in the town's backyard. Since then, we have acted as the voice of our members in being active participants in the full sphere of public lands management issues in the Upper Gunnison Basin in Colorado.

We continue to feel that NEPA is a critical part of the federal public lands management framework. It helps hold agencies accountable while still letting the vast majority of projects proceed unimpeded. It informs the public, and helps shape projects in productive ways. It gets managers, and the public, to analyze all pertinent issues. Most importantly though, NEPA means the agency is charged with the responsibility to analyze and disclose information. Imposing arbitrary time, page, or cost limits may in fact prevent an agency from disclosing critical information. Proposals for public lands development often involve increasingly complex issues, sometimes taking many hundreds of pages to fully explore. To limit this type of analysis when it is warranted works against NEPA, and the public.

On behalf of our members, we are opposed to this and other actions to weaken the Act, and we fully endorse the comments submitted on this issue by Colorado Wild, et. al., dated February 6, 2006.

Sincerely,

/S/
Sandy Shea
Public Lands Director
High Country Citizens' Alliance