

UINTAH COUNTY

STATE OF UTAH

Our past is the nation's future.

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Cloyd Harrison
Lloyd W. Swain

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SHERIFF - Rick Hawkins
SURVEYOR - Nelson J. Marshall

CQ468

September 20, 2002

James L. Connaughton, Chairman
NEPA Task Force
Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Connaughton:

As a county with over 70% of its land publicly managed, our social and economic life is dependent upon the ability to wisely and timely use our public land resources. We support the review of the NEPA process if it will focus on the following points.

1. Streamline and/or simplify the NEPA process. Currently, the process is too cumbersome to be completed in a timely manner and is frequently open to legal challenge.
2. The role of local governments should be recognized and encouraged/allowed to participate in the NEPA process from the earliest stages. Collaboration and coordination between the agency initiating a NEPA process and the County should not overly constrain the County's ability to address local issues.
3. The NEPA process needs to include the probable economic effects upon local communities.
4. Rehabilitation and mitigation needs to be included as an integral part of the NEPA process.

In addition, Uintah County is concerned about the following items specifically identified in the April 10, 2002 memorandum:

Under the section "The Task Force will examine."

- Item 2. Information Security concerns - this section should not constrain dissemination of information to our public lands committee or other interested parties.
- Item 4. Becoming a cooperating agency. Restrictive MOU's would be unacceptable to Uintah County as this would affect the County's ability to utilize public input and the public lands committee.

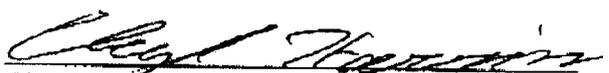
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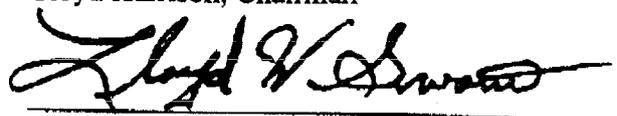
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We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the CEQ NEPA Task Force description, items it will examine, and projected products. In order to meet the extended deadline of September 23, 2002 for comments, an e-mail will be sent with the hard copy to follow through the mail. If we can be of assistance during the NEPA review process, please let us know.

Sincerely,

UINTAH COUNTY COMMISSION


Cloyd Harrison, Chairman


Lloyd W. Swain


David J. Haslem

cc: Horst G. Greczmiel

CC 468

Cloyd Harrison, Chair Lloyd W. Swain David J. Haslem

**UINTAH COUNTY
COMMISSION**

152 East 100 North
Vernal, Utah 84078
phone: (435) 781-5380
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DATE: September 23, 2002

TO: Horst G. Greczmiel, Associate Director
NEPA Oversight

FROM: Uintah County Commission

Pages to follow: 2

COMMENTS: Comments on National Environmental
Policy Act Task Force. Hard Copy mailed on Sept. 23,
2002.