**Healthy Landscapes and Balanced Recreation Team**

**Action Team Member:** Keith Krebs

**How Might We:** **Build upon our success of collaborative water resource management to enhance our knowledge and planning our future water need.** (Primary “How might we?”)

Effectively influence public and private agencies to collaborate on issues. (Secondary but relevant and important “How might we?”)

Help fund and empower collaboration and efficiency with federal agencies to manage our lands, water and wildlife. (Secondary but relevant and important “How might we?)

**Data Source:**

Name: Garret Hanks – TU Southwest Field Coordinators

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Add Contact to Envision Contacts? Y?

**Insights:** The Roan Plateau near Rifle Colorado is a backcountry area prized for its spectacular trout and wildlife habitat. In 2008, the George W. Bush administration leased all the federal lands on the Roan for oil and gas drilling. Conservation groups including Trout Unlimited represented by Earth Justice, sued to protect the Roan’s important scenic, wildlife and wilderness values. In 2012 the District Court in Denver ruled against the Bush administration for missed considerations including fish and wildlife.

The BLM then opened the door for discussion with all interested stakeholders. How to balance energy development and stewardship of natural resources was at the heart of the Roan controversy. The parties negotiated for two years finally reaching an agreement in 2014 that secured lasting protections for the Roan’s best habitat while allowing development to proceed in carefully selected, less-sensitive areas. This agreement was the basis for the BLM Final Resource Management Plan. This plan will guide management for the next 20 years.

“With some calling for unrestricted drilling on public lands, this is a positive lesson that we can find commonsense, balanced solutions that meet the needs of both energy development and conservation of our most valuable natural places” – Garrett Hanks – TU

Pushing for and participating in collaborative public land management could help avoid conflict and legal gridlock on public lands issues by involving all stakeholders early on in leasing and management decisions.

TAKE AWAY: Early Cooperation, Communication, Collaboration + Tenacity

Text paraphrased from media release from Trout Unlimited.

Any reports or maps or web links the team should read/review?

Additional background information on BLM website at the page on Roan Plateau