



CITY OF MONTE VISTA

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Colorado Water Conservation Board
Attn: Greg Johnson
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80203

July 12, 2012

Dear Board of Directors,

The City of Monte Vista fully supports the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust (RiGHT) and their request for funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board to protect the Haywood Ranch. While not within the city limits, we support this conservation project because it protects those resources and values central to our economy and way of life in Monte Vista.

A conservation easement on the Haywood Ranch will preserve vital agricultural lands, wildlife habitat, and the scenic beauty of the area, all of which contribute greatly to our local economy. Furthermore, it will prevent development of the ranch and its associated water rights, which helps protect the floodplain and lessens the risk of downstream flooding.

We feel fortunate to live and work in such a beautiful area and applaud the efforts of RiGHT to preserve intact lands in the San Luis Valley and especially along the Rio Grande. Additionally, we see the protection of the Haywood Ranch as a critical part of the overall efforts of both conservation groups and local governments to preserve the land and water that in turn preserves the beauty of our valley and our livelihood here.

The City of Monte Vista strongly supports RiGHT and their effort to conserve the Haywood and we hope that you will do the same. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Don Van Wormer
Monte Vista City Manager