



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-27**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CONTINUATION OF AN EMERGENCY
IN GUNNISON COUNTY, COLORADO DUE TO THE SYLVESTER GULCH FIRE
(ALSO KNOWN AS THE COAL SEAM FIRE)**

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2022, the County Manager, pursuant to Gunnison County Resolution 2020-11 and applicable law, declared an emergency due to the continued hazards surrounding the Sylvester Gulch Fire (previously called the Somerset Coal Seam Fire);

WHEREAS, the Sylvester Gulch Fire continues to burn in steep, rugged terrain, with a multitude of hazards for firefighters on the ground which limits the ability of crews to directly suppress the fire from the ground, resulting in a complex, long-duration wildfire event;

WHEREAS, the Sylvester Gulch Fire continues to potentially impact operations at the West Elk Mine, Hwy 133, and the residents of Somerset;

WHEREAS, the Ragged Mountain Fire Protection District declared the Sylvester Gulch Fire a disaster and delegated the authority of the fire to the Gunnison County Sheriff;

WHEREAS, the magnitude and complexity of the incident and the response needed continues to exceed both the technical and monetary capabilities of the County;

WHEREAS, due at least in part to the foregoing, the Board of County Commissioners has confirmed to a reasonable degree the continued existence of such emergency;

WHEREAS, due at least in part to the foregoing, the public health, safety and welfare of Gunnison County citizens and the public at large in Gunnison County remains in danger;

WHEREAS, due at least in part to the foregoing, persons and/or property are or will be damaged unless continued efforts are undertaken to reduce the threat to life and/or property; and

WHEREAS, there remains an emergency present which necessitates continuation of the use of emergency powers granted by C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, Local Disaster Emergencies, and Board of County Commissioners, Gunnison County, Colorado, Resolution No. 2020-11.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DIRECTED:

That it is hereby declared that there continues to be a disaster emergency due to the following conditions:

- a. The complex, hazardous, and long-duration nature of the Sylvester Gulch Fire;



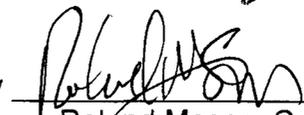
- b. The potential impacts to the West Elk Mine operations, Hwy 133, and the residents of Somerset from the Sylvester Gulch Fire; and
- c. The magnitude and complexity of the response to the Sylvester Gulch Fire has exceeded the technical and monetary capabilities of Gunnison County.

Dated this 26th day of July, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO

By 
Jonathan Hojick, Chairperson

By 
Elizabeth Smith, Commissioner

By 
Roland Mason, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Deputy County Clerk

