PARK COUNTY, COLORADO,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-13

PUBLICLY STATING THE VALUE OF PUBLIC LANDS TO THE COUNTY'S ECONOMY, RECREATION, HERITAGE, AND QUALITY OF LIFE; AND OPPOSING ANY EFFORT TO CLAIM, TAKE OVER, LITIGATE FOR, SELL, OR TRANFER OWNERSHIP OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS TO THE STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITHIN PARK COUNTY, COLORADO AND SUPPORTING CONTINUED FEDERAL OWNERSHIP OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS

WHEREAS, Park County includes many beautiful, natural landscapes including deserts, mountains, rivers, reservoirs and other natural treasures; and

WHEREAS, many of those stunning places are public lands owned by all Americans; and

WHEREAS, public land under the management of the US Forest Service and the US Bureau of Land Management, constitutes 51% of the land in Park County; and

WHEREAS, these federal public lands are essential to the quality of life in Park county providing public recreational opportunities for wildlife watching, hiking, hunting, fishing, skiing, backpacking, horseback riding, bicycling, sightseeing, and numerous other outdoor recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, these federal public lands provide essential habitat for fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, these federal lands contain many historically significant irreplaceable cultural sites and landscapes that are spiritually significant; and

WHEREAS, wildlife and scenic landscapes on public lands attract outdoor recreation and tourism that are significant drivers of the Park County economy; and

WHEREAS, the unified consistent management of federal land by federal land management agencies across the nation best protects the national values and utility of the public lands for all Americans and the values on which Park County is dependent; and

WHEREAS, Park County business owners attract many employees because of the iconic landscapes and recreational opportunities afforded by federal public lands; and

WHEREAS, there is broad consensus in Park County of the need for effective management of our federal public lands and wildlife, and that collaborative approaches in which federal public lands management agencies cooperate with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Park County officials and our community are more likely to produce effective management than would ownership or management of federal public lands by the State of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Park County residents are actively collaborating among diverse interests and with public land managers to improve land management and public access; and

WHEREAS, federal public land management agencies employ residents of Park County who are passionate and experts at their jobs despite lack of adequate federal funding, pay taxes, and contribute to our community; and

WHEREAS, Americans from throughout the country value these public lands as a part of our national heritage and as our inalienable birthright as Americans; and

WHEREAS, Park County forests are naturally prone to fire, including periodic large-scale fires, as part of the ecosystem in which they have evolved over the millennia, although a warming climate has accentuate the process; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Colorado as follows:

> That the Board of County Commissioners opposes any effort to claim, take over, litigate for or sell off federal public lands within Park County except pursuant to processes established by Congress in the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and other applicable laws, following public participation and site based analysis of wildlife, ecological, and community implications of the proposed land transfer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF PARK THAT:

1. The Board of County Commissioners strongly supports federal land management in Park County and the irreplaceable value public lands bring to our county's economy, recreation, heritage, and quality of life.

2. The Board of County Commissioners enthusiastically commends the dedicated federal employees who manage America's public lands in Park County and the dedicated employees of Colorado Parks and Wildlife division who manage wildlife in Park County in partnership with federal land managers.

Moved, seconded, and approved this 17th day of March, 2016.

PARK COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mike Brazell, Chairman

ATTEST:

Deputy
~~Park County~~ Clerk & Recorder

COUNTY CLERK • PARK COUNTY, COLO.