PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF LAKE AND STATE OF COLORADO

RESOLUTION 2016-22

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 TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF ANY
FEDERAL PUBLIC LAND PARCELS OF 50 OR MORE ACRES
TO THE STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITHIN LAKE
COUNTY, COLORADO AND SUPPORTING CONTINUED FEDERAL
OWNERSHIP OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS

WHEREAS, Lake 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, the
US Bureau of Land Management, and other federal land management agencies
constitutes 73% of the land in Lake County; and

WHEREAS, these federal public lands are essential to the quality of life in
Lake 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, including
Lake County's four 14ers and miles of Gold Medal trout streams, attract
outdoor recreation and tourism that are significant drivers of the Lake
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 Lake County
is dependent; and

WHEREAS, Lake 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 Lake County of the need for effective
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, Lake 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 Lake County, Colorado as follows:

That the Board of County Commissioners opposes any effort to claim, take over, litigate for or sell off any federal public land parcels of 50 or more acres within lake 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. This does not preclude the county from facilitating small-scale land swaps of 50 acres or less within its borders when pertinent and shown to be beneficial to Lake County residents.

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

1. The Board of County Commissioners supports collaborative federal land management in Lake 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 appreciates collaboration with federal employees who manage current and future use and access to America’s public lands in Lake County, and looks to increased future collaboration, especially regarding travel management decisions. The board also appreciates work and collaboration with the dedicated employees of Colorado Parks and Wildlife division who manage wildlife in Lake County in partnership with federal land managers.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF LAKE AND
STATE OF COLORADO

Michael J. Bordogna, Chair

Bruce J. Hix, Commissioner

[Seal of Lake County]