

DOÑA ANA COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2016 - 66**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS
TO DOÑA ANA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, a majority of Americans value federal public lands as part of our national heritage, and desire to have them protected for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations; and

WHEREAS, federal public lands in New Mexico encompass vast tracts of grasslands, mountain landscapes, riparian habitats and desert ecosystems that collectively contain a diverse array of fauna and flora, as well as valuable natural resources; and

WHEREAS, many of the watersheds and irrigation systems essential to healthy wildlife, sustained economic activity and resilient communities originate on these lands; and

WHEREAS, federal public lands are generally managed under a multiple-use mandate that requires collaborative stakeholder input at the local level while encouraging volunteer activity and fostering intra-governmental collaboration; and

WHEREAS, access to and stewardship of federal lands in New Mexico is important for Native American religious and cultural practices, as well as basic economic activities such as ranching, mining, forestry, many forms of outdoor recreation and traditional subsistence activities; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation on federal public lands in New Mexico generates more than \$6 billion in estimated consumer spending each year, while employing more than 68,000 people; and

WHEREAS, proposals are being circulated among New Mexico counties favoring the transfer of federal public lands to state government; and

WHEREAS, should federal public lands be transferred to state ownership, New Mexico taxpayers would be liable for rehabilitating 3,989 abandoned mines at an estimated cost of up to \$842 million as well as the cost of fighting wildfires in these areas—an amount in excess of \$240 million in FY2011-12; and

WHEREAS, should federal public lands be transferred to state ownership, New Mexico counties would lose millions of dollars in federal Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funds, which have been a mainstay for supporting county government programs and initiatives annually for more than 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Doña Ana County residents share in all of the benefits of federal public lands located within Doña Ana County and the State of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Doña Ana County is the proud home of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, Prehistoric Track ways National Monument, White Sands National Monument, San Andres National Wildlife Refuge and other federal public lands;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Doña Ana County Board of Commissioners:

- Supports continued federal ownership and management of existing federal public lands in Doña Ana County, as well as in the New Mexico and the United States generally, because of their irreplaceable value to our economy, quality of life, and national heritage;
- Does not favor transfer of federal lands to the state because of the financial burden such a transfer would impose on New Mexico residents, as well as the increased risk of environmental degradation, profiteering and loss of public access to traditionally open areas; and
- Does strongly endorse robust public-private partnerships and active dialog between stakeholders and federal agencies in all aspects of federal lands management; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be distributed to the New Mexico Congressional delegation, New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, members of the State Legislature, and the New Mexico Association of Counties.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of September, 2016, by the Board of County Commissioners of Doña Ana County, State of New Mexico.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DOÑA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO



Wayne Hancock

 Wayne Hancock, Chair, District 4 For / Against

Dr. David Garcia

 Dr. David Garcia, Vice-Chair, District 2 For / Against

Billy G. Garrett

 Billy G. Garrett, District 1 For / Against

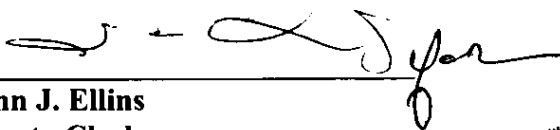
ABSENT

 Benjamin L. Rawson, District 3 For / Against

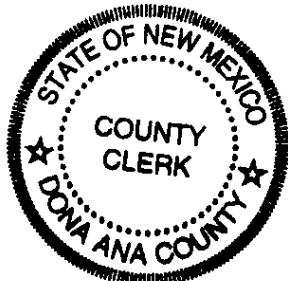
Leticia Duarte Benavidez

 Leticia Duarte Benavidez, District 5 For / Against

ATTEST:



Lynn J. Ellins
County Clerk



COUNTY OF DONA ANA) RESOLUTION
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss PAGES: 3

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On SEP 14, 2016 09:58:09 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1621310
Of The Records Of Dona Ana County



Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office,
Lynn J. Ellins, County Clerk, Dona Ana, NM

Deputy

Renee Torres