

**RESOLUTION 2016-10**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF  
COCONINO COUNTY, ARIZONA, OPPOSING EFFORTS TO TRANSFER  
OWNERSHIP OF FEDERAL LANDS TO THE STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS  
WITHIN ARIZONA OUTSIDE OF ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES**

**WHEREAS**, public land under the management of the Forest Service, the US Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service constitutes 40 per cent of the land in Coconino County that form our National Parks, National Monuments, National Recreation Areas, National Forests and Bureau of Land Management; and

**WHEREAS**, our nation had foresight to set aside lands in Reserve for the sake of all Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, Coconino County has productive and effective working relationships with our local, state and federal partners, and without these constructive and collaborative relationships, the development and implementation of critical initiatives such as the 2010 Shultz Flood response, the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Program, and the Four Forest Restoration Initiative could not occur; and

**WHEREAS**, the indigenous and Hispanic people of Coconino County retain and hold dear their history, rights and religious connections with these and other lands within Arizona; and

**WHEREAS**, jurisdictional differences, including guarantees of Rights-of-Way, water or mineral rights, and other private land ownership rights and contractual agreements, including leases, permits, treaties and other compacts, overlay the public lands and adjacent private or otherwise non-effected properties, hindering the viable attainment of any potential transfer; and

**WHEREAS**, our local economies always have depended upon the presence and use of our federal land, including tourism as one of Coconino County's economic engines that accounts for over \$1.1 billion annual economic impact as a direct result of visitation to our public lands and recreational amenities; and

**WHEREAS**, these integrated, multijurisdictional landscapes provide for protecting and retaining our watershed which is linked to current and historical economies, including the Five C's: Cattle, Copper, Citrus, Cotton and Climate; and

**WHEREAS**, costs of fire suppression are growing exponentially at the national level, averaging annually over \$1.5 Billion nationally, and a per state cost is impossible to predict on a year by year basis; and

**WHEREAS**, mitigating the consequence of catastrophic wildfire, especially in the wildland/urban intersections is the number one public safety issue for Coconino County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Arizona's budget is inadequate to fully support and manage its own lands, including state parks, state forestry and state lands for lands management, and often must depend upon federal support in emergencies such as wildfires and floods; and

**WHEREAS**, national emergencies often require landscape-level strategies to protect our communities and the natural landscapes that can far exceed local or state capabilities, and require national financial support to protect these national reserves; and

**WHEREAS**, there is broad consensus in Coconino County of the need for effective and cooperative management of our federal public lands in a collaborative manner with the appropriate federal, state, tribal, county, private and other local stakeholders to improve public land management and public access; so

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of Coconino County, Arizona, opposes any effort to claim, take over, litigate for or sell off federal public lands within Coconino County except pursuant to processes established by Congress.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THIS 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2016.

**COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**



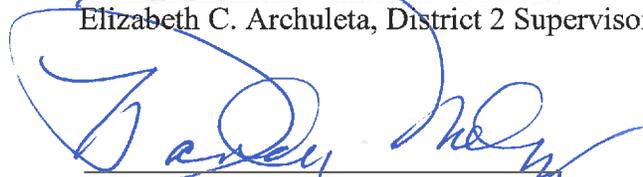
Art Babbott, District 1 Supervisor



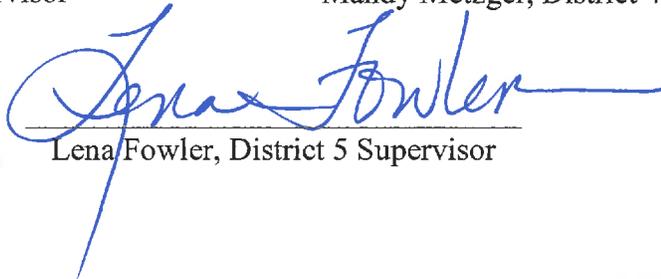
Elizabeth C. Archuleta, District 2 Supervisor



Matt Ryan, District 3 Supervisor

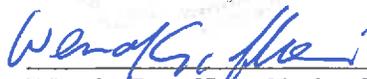


Mandy Metzger, District 4 Supervisor



Lena Fowler, District 5 Supervisor

**ATTEST:**



Wendy Escoffier, Clerk of the Board

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**



Rose Winkeler, Deputy County Attorney