

**BERNALILLO COUNTY**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION NO. 2016-82**

1 **A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS**  
2 **TO BERNALILLO COUNTY**

3  
4 **WHEREAS**, a majority of Americans value Federal public lands as part of our national  
5 heritage, and desire to have them protected for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations;  
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, Federal public lands in New Mexico encompass vast tracts of grasslands,  
8 mountain landscapes, riparian habitats, and desert ecosystems that contain a diverse array of  
9 fauna and flora, as well as natural resources essential to the prosperity of our State and Nation;  
10 and

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

13 **WHEREAS**, Federal public lands are generally managed under a multiple-use mandate  
14 that requires collaborative local stakeholder input, encourages volunteer activity, and foster intra-  
15 governmental collaboration; and

16 **WHEREAS**, access to and stewardship of Federal lands in New Mexico is important for  
17 Native American religious and cultural practices, basic economic activities--such as ranching,  
18 mining, and forestry, many forms of outdoor recreation, and traditional subsistence activities;  
19 and

20 **WHEREAS**, outdoor recreation on Federal public lands in New Mexico alone generates  
21 an estimated six billion one hundred million dollars (\$6,100,000,000) in consumer spending each  
22 year, while employing more than sixty-eight thousand people; and

1           **WHEREAS**, proposals are being circulated among New Mexico counties favoring the  
2 transfer of Federal public lands to State government; and

3           **WHEREAS**, should Federal public lands be transferred to State ownership, New Mexico  
4 taxpayers would be liable for rehabilitating 3,989 abandoned mines at an estimated cost of up to  
5 \$842 million as well as the cost of fighting wildfires in these areas—an amount in excess of \$240  
6 million in FY2011-12; and

7           **WHEREAS**, Bernalillo County residents share in all of the benefits of Federal public  
8 lands located within and in the vicinity of Bernalillo County and the State of New Mexico; and

9           **WHEREAS**, Bernalillo County is the proud home of Petroglyph National Monument,  
10 Cibola National Forest, Valle de Oro and other federal public lands;

11           **NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners, the  
12 governing body of the County of Bernalillo, supports continued Federal ownership and  
13 management of existing Federal public lands in Bernalillo County, as well as in New Mexico and  
14 the United States generally, because of their irreplaceable value to our economy, quality of life,  
15 and national heritage; and


16           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Bernalillo County Board of County  
17 Commissioners does not favor transfer of Federal lands to the State because of the financial  
18 burden such a transfer would impose on New Mexico residents as well as the increased risk of  
19 environmental degradation, profiteering, and loss of public access to traditionally open areas; and

20           **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be distributed to members  
21 of the New Mexico Congressional delegation, Governor of New Mexico, New Mexico Attorney  
22 General, members of the New Mexico State legislature, and the New Mexico Association of  
23 Counties.

1           **DONE** this 25<sup>th</sup> Day of October, 2016.

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**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

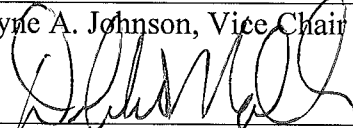
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Art De La Cruz, Chair

**VOTED 'NO'**

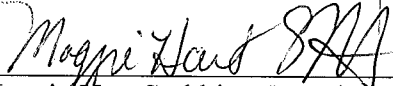
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Wayne A. Johnson, Vice Chair

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Debbie O'Malley, Member

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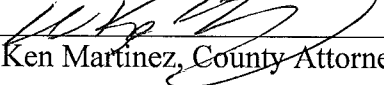
  
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Maggie Hart Stebbins, Member

**EXCUSED**


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Lonnie C. Talbert, Member

15 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 W. Ken Martinez, County Attorney

19 ATTEST:

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21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 Maggie Toulouse Oliver  
County Clerk

