

## RESOLUTION NO. 17-34

### **A RESOLUTION PUBLICLY STATING THE VALUE OF PUBLIC LANDS TO ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY'S ECONOMY, RECREATION, HERITAGE, AND QUALITY OF LIFE; AND OPPOSING ANY EFFORT TO CLAIM, TAKE OVER, LITIGATE FOR, SELL, OR TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS TO THE STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITHIN ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY, MONTANA AND SUPPORTING CONTINUED FEDERAL OWNERSHIP OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS**

**WHEREAS**, Anaconda-Deer Lodge 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 a substantial percentage of the land in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County; and

**WHEREAS**, these federal public lands are essential to the quality of life in Anaconda-Deer Lodge 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 Anaconda-Deer Lodge 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 Anaconda-Deer Lodge County is dependent; and

**WHEREAS**, Anaconda-Deer Lodge 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 Anaconda-Deer Lodge 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 Montana Parks and Wildlife, Anaconda-Deer Lodge 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 Montana; and

**WHEREAS**, Anaconda-Deer Lodge 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 Anaconda-Deer Lodge 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**, Anaconda-Deer Lodge 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

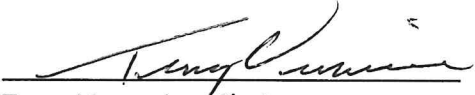
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, Montana as follows:

That the Board of County Commissioners opposes any effort to claim, take over, litigate for or sell off federal public lands within Anaconda-Deer Lodge 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.

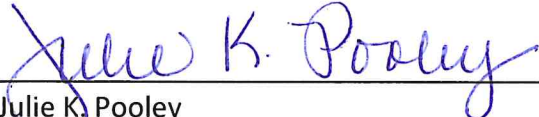
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF Anaconda-Deer Lodge THAT:

1. The Board of County Commissioners strongly supports federal land management in Anaconda-Deer Lodge 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 Anaconda-Deer Lodge County and the dedicated employees of Montana Parks and Wildlife division who manage wildlife in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County in partnership with federal land managers.

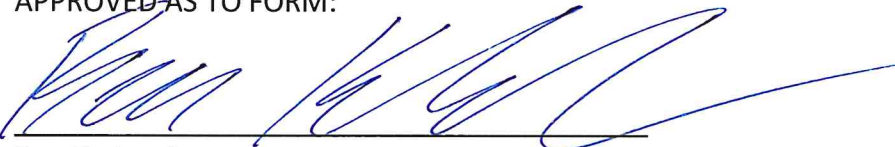
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Commission of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County at a regular meeting held on the **3rd day of October, 2017.**

  
Terry Vermeire, Chairperson  
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Commission

ATTEST:

  
Julie K. Pooley  
Clerk of Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Ben Krakowka  
County Attorney