

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
COUNTY OF EDDY**

**R-17-39**

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS  
TO EDDY COUNTY**

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

**WHEREAS**, national 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**, national 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 national lands in New Mexico is important for Native American religious and cultural practices, as well as basic economic activities such as hunting, ranching, mining, oil and gas development, forestry, many forms of outdoor recreation and traditional subsistence activities; and

**WHEREAS**, outdoor recreation on national 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**, almost 202,000 sportsmen participate in hunting, fishing and trapping, spending in excess of \$613 million annually in New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, almost 11,610 Eddy County sportsmen participate in hunting, fishing and trapping, spending \$18,403,905 million annually in New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, on an annual basis hunting, fishing and trapping contribute more than 183 jobs, almost \$5.6 million in labor income, over \$9.6 million in gross domestic product, over \$1.2 million in federal tax revenues and over \$1.1 million in state and local tax revenues to Eddy County; and

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



**WHEREAS**, should national 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 FY 2011-12; and

**WHEREAS**, Eddy County residents share in all of the benefits of national public lands located within Eddy County and the State of New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, Eddy County is the proud home of the Permian Basin, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, the Lincoln National Forest, the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park and the Guadalupe Ridge Trail; and

**WHEREAS**, Eddy County is the proud home of the Pecos River, the Black River, the Delaware River and Brantley Lake; and

**WHEREAS**, Eddy County is the proud home of the annual Christmas on the Pecos Light Show, the National Cave and Karst Research Center and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP);

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Eddy County Board of Commissioners:

- Supports continued national ownership and management of existing national public lands in Eddy County, as well as in 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 national public 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 national public 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 27th day of June, 2017, by the Board of County Commissioners of Eddy County, State of New Mexico.

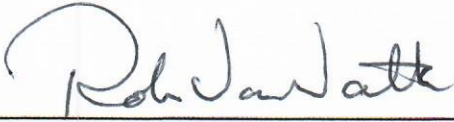
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**



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**Stella Davis, Commission Chairman**

**ATTEST:**



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**County Clerk**

