

RESOLUTION NO. 6-2015

**REQUEST FOR CONGRESS TO RELEASE ALL WILDERNESS STUDY
AREAS IN COLORADO AND OPPOSITION TO H.R. 3336 THE COLORADO
WILDERNESS ACT OF 2015**

WHEREAS, the Colorado Wilderness Act of 2015, H.R. 3336, was introduced to Congress without participation or endorsement of the local communities; and

WHEREAS, the Act was introduced by a Congressional Representative that neither represents nor resides in the congressional districts most impacted by the proposed legislation; and

WHEREAS, mechanized and motorized recreation are prohibited in Wilderness Areas, yet are areas of important and steady economic growth throughout Colorado and specifically in Montezuma County; and

WHEREAS, the Act closes off approximately 715,000 acres to all mechanized use, such as mountain bikes, ATV's, snowmobiles, motorcycles, and chainsaws; and

WHEREAS, Montezuma County faces a potential firestorm with the tremendous buildup of natural fuels due to unprecedented beetle kill and the inability to lower fuel loads by mechanized thinning under Wilderness designation; and

WHEREAS, the Act places undue hardship on anyone who cannot walk or ride horseback to enjoy these areas of Colorado, such as the physically disabled or elderly, and violates the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

WHEREAS, Wilderness designation places undue hardship on livestock growers to maintain fences and water sources within the Wilderness Areas; and

WHEREAS, once designated a Wilderness Area, an act of Congress is needed to take the area out of Wilderness; and

WHEREAS, the numerous "Wilderness Study Areas" identified within the Wilderness Act have been inventoried over the past several decades, are mandated to be managed as de facto Wilderness Areas, and can only be released from this designation by an act of Congress; and

WHEREAS, Montezuma County acts in good faith through various agreements and as a coordinating agency and partner in land use planning with the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies regarding the long-term protection and management of special areas that require unique management; and

WHEREAS, Montezuma County intends to continue to coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies on land management issues.

NOW, THEREFORE the Board of County Commissioners of Montezuma County, Colorado finds that:

1. The Colorado Wilderness Act of 2015, HB 3336, is not in the best interest of the citizens of Montezuma County, Colorado, and causes undue economic hardship on the surrounding communities.
2. Congress should release all Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) in Montezuma County from such designation to allow for multiple use and appropriate stewardship of those lands.

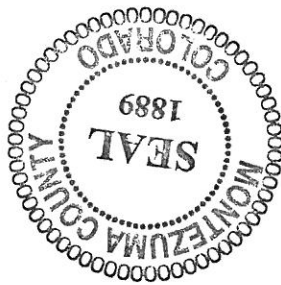
NOW, THEREFORE, BET IT RESOLVED that the Montezuma County Board of Commissioners:

1. opposes the Colorado Wilderness Act of 2015, HB 3336, in its current form; and
2. calls upon the Colorado Congressional delegation to introduce legislation to release all Wilderness Study Areas within Montezuma County from such designation.

Adopted this 2nd, day of November, 2015.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
MONTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO

Kim Perrell
County Clerk and Recorder
Montezuma County, Colorado



Ken L. Smith

Henry D. Sorella

James R. Lambert