

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF MONTEZUMA  
STATE OF COLORADO**

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Montezuma County, Colorado, duly convened and held the 18th day of May, 2021, with the following persons in attendance:

Commissioners Present: Jim Candelaria, Kent Lindsay, Joel Stevenson  
Commissioners Absent:  
County Administrator: Shak Powers  
County Attorney: John Baxter  
Clerk and Recorder: Kim Percell

the following proceedings, among others, were taken:

<sup>13</sup>  
**Resolution # -2021  
Resolution Opposing  
The Federal Government's "30 X 30" Land Preservation Goal**

WHEREAS, Montezuma County is a legal and political subdivision of the State of Colorado for which the Board of County Commissioners ("Board") is authorized to act; and

WHEREAS, Montezuma County containing about [number] acres of land situated in the southwest corner of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the federal government owns 72% of the land within the County, and the National Park Service, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Affairs are responsible for managing over 948,825 acres of these federal lands; and

WHEREAS, approximately 23,109 acres (nearly 7 %) of privately owned land in Montezuma County are also already protected with perpetual conservation easements; and

WHEREAS, The National Park Service, the United States Fores Service, Burea of Land Managment, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Bureaue of Reclamation, Burea of Indian Affairs make up over 72% of Montezuma County, and already are in proected status; and

WHEREAS, designating lands as wilderness does not assure its preservation. Left in an undisturbed or natural state, these lands are highly susceptible to wildland wildfires, insect infestation and disease, all of which degrades the natural and human environment; and

WHEREAS, because of the predominance of federal land in Montezuma County, the well- being, health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of the County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on the manner in which these lands and their resources are used and access to these lands; and

WHEREAS, many of Montezuma County's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize federal lands and their resources, including the forest products industry, livestock grazing, oil and gas exploration and production, mining and mineral development, recreational industries, hunting and other outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the Colorado economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of Montezuma County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008 entitled tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and abroad (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); and

WHEREAS, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, President Biden directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior officials, to develop a program to conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which is called the "30 x 30" program; and

WHEREAS, under the 30 x 30 program, some 680 million acres of our Nation's lands would be set aside and permanently preserved in its natural state, preventing the productive use of these lands and their resources; and

WHEREAS, there is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and water in the United States, and no such authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, is likely to cause significant harm to the economy of Montezuma County, and injure the County's businesses and its citizens by depriving them of access to public lands and national forest system lands and preventing the productive use of these lands' resources; and

WHEREAS, the withdrawal of some 680 million acres of federal lands from multiple use and placement of such lands in permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many western states, including Colorado, and in particular rural counties such as Montezuma County whose citizens depend on access to federal lands for their livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, will conflict with the plans, policies and programs of Montezuma County as expressed in the Montezuma County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, adopted January 6, 1997, which obligates the federal government to coordinate its policy development with Montezuma County as also required by the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA) and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA); and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, cannot reach its stated goal of 30% of the lands and waters of the United States and its territories without acquiring or controlling additional private lands thereby expanding the federal land base.