



**TAOS COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-34**

TAOS COUNTY
VALERIE RUEL MONTOYA, CLERK
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BY BLANCAL

**SUPPORTING CONTINUED FEDERAL MANAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP OF
PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN TAOS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Taos County, New Mexico is home to a significant portion of public lands, comprising approximately 594,000 acres, which are integral to the County's economy, environment, culture, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, these public lands, managed by federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management, provide essential resources, including grazing lands for agricultural operations, habitats for wildlife, and opportunities for outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Taos County deeply value these public lands for their recreational, economic, cultural, and spiritual significance, recognizing that these lands are accessible to all, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or gender; and

WHEREAS, public lands contribute significantly to the local economy through activities such as mineral extraction, timber sales, ranching, tourism, and outdoor recreation, which contributes substantially to New Mexico's economy; and

WHEREAS, federal management of these public lands ensures that resources are managed for the benefit of all Americans, addressing complex challenges such as wildfire management, watershed protection, and wildlife conservation; and

WHEREAS, the costs associated with managing these lands are a national responsibility, and federal involvement is crucial for the long-term health and sustainability of these resources; and

WHEREAS, there are ongoing attempts to transfer or sell off public lands, which are inconsistent with the values and interests of the residents of Taos County and the broader New Mexico community; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reveals that outdoor recreation in New Mexico generated \$3.2 billion in economic impact, contributed 2.4% to the State's GDP, and supported 29,182 jobs, demonstrating the profound economic significance of public lands and outdoor recreation to the state and to Taos County

According to a 2023 Conservation in the West Poll, 84% of Westerners - including 71% of Republicans - are more likely to support presidents who use their power to protect existing public lands. Similarly, the 2024 poll found that 85 percent support creating new national parks, national monuments, national wildlife refuges and Tribal protected areas to protect historic sites or areas for outdoor recreation.

Protecting these places is also a winning issue on both sides of the aisle. Since the Antiquities Act was passed, 18 presidents - nine Democratic and nine Republican - have designated or expanded over 160 national monuments across the country.

WHEREAS, Taos County recognizes the importance of multiple uses of public lands, including but not limited to, grazing, energy development, and recreation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Taos County Board of Commissioners hereby:

1. Expresses its strong support for the continued federal management and stewardship of public lands within Taos County.
2. Opposes any efforts to sell, transfer, or dispose of these public lands.
3. Encourages the New Mexico Congressional Delegation to oppose any legislation that would negatively impact public lands and to support policies that ensure their long-term preservation and sustainable use.
4. We ask you to fully fund our public lands, oppose the sale of public lands in the Budget Reconciliation Package, and oppose any attempts to change the Antiquities Act or reduce the size of our national monuments.
5. Recognizes the multiple uses of public lands, and encourages a balanced approach to land management.
6. Urges federal land management agencies to continue their collaborative efforts with local communities, stakeholders, and other governmental entities to ensure effective and responsible management of public lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the members of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation, the Governor of New Mexico, and the relevant federal land management agencies.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED, this 1st day of July, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF TAOS COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

TAOS COUNTY
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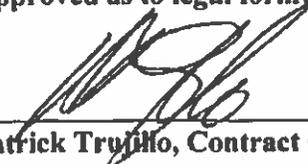

Ronald Mascareñas, Chair

Attest:


Valerie Montoya, Taos County Clerk

VOTE RECORD:				
FR Bob Romero	<u>yes</u>	no	abstain	absent
M. Romero Jr.	<u>yes</u>	no	abstain	absent
D. Vigil	<u>yes</u>	no	abstain	absent
A. Brush	<u>yes</u>	no	abstain	absent
R. Mascareñas	<u>yes</u>	no	abstain	absent

Approved as to legal form;


Patrick Trujillo, Contract County Attorney

