



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025- 21**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PUBLIC LANDS**

WHEREAS, Gunnison County, Colorado, is 3,259 square miles, of which 80% is comprised of federal public lands, and public lands are integral to the county's economy, environment, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, these public lands, managed by federal agencies including the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management; and

WHEREAS, these public lands provide essential resources to our residents, workers and visitors, including clean air; grazing lands for agricultural operations; habitats for wildlife; rivers, lakes and watersheds which provide for our drinking water and healthy fish populations, wildfire suppression, and agricultural irrigation; cultural resources; scenic beauty; renewable energy, fossil fuels and minerals; timber; a ski area; and opportunities for other outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Gunnison County deeply value these public lands for their recreational, economic, cultural, and spiritual significance, recognizing that these lands are accessible to all Americans, 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 Colorado'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, Gunnison County is aware of the actual and proposed budget cuts and layoffs at the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management that will compromise these agencies' capacity to respond to growing visitation numbers, manage rangelands, maintain trails and trail heads, educate and inform visitors of regulations and provide law enforcement, and will reduce their



collective ability to fight wildfires and conserve these lands for the benefit of future generations; 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 Gunnison County and the broader Colorado community; and

WHEREAS, Gunnison County is the largest coal producing county in Colorado and an oil and gas-energy producing county with a long history of balancing conservation needs with industry regulations, and there are currently Federal regulations on public lands in place to curb pollution, especially methane; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) reveals that outdoor recreation in Colorado generated \$65.8 billion in economic output, contributed \$36.5 billion to the state's GDP, supported 404,000 jobs, and generated \$11.2 billion in tax revenue, demonstrating the profound economic significance of public lands and outdoor recreation to the state and to Gunnison County.

WHEREAS, the 2023 SCORP data indicates that 96% of Coloradans engage in outdoor recreation, with 72% participating at least once a week, underscoring the widespread and active use of public lands for recreational purposes.

WHEREAS, GUNNISON COUNTY recognizes the importance of multiple uses of public lands, including but not limited to, grazing, energy development, sustainable timber harvest and recreation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the COUNTY of GUNNISON hereby:

1. Expresses its strong support for the continued federal management and stewardship of public lands within Gunnison County.
2. Opposes any efforts to sell, transfer, or dispose of these public lands.
3. Encourages the Colorado 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. This includes re-establishing adequate staffing levels and budgets to support the needs and programs of each agency.
4. Urges federal land management agencies to continue tribal consultation and collaborative efforts with local communities, governments, and stakeholders to ensure effective and responsible management of public lands.

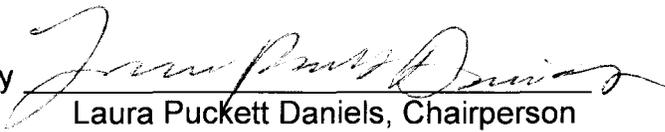


- 5. Recognizes the multiple uses of public lands and encourages a balanced approach to land management.

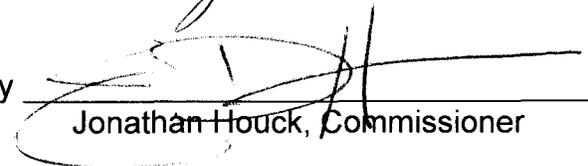
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation, the Governor of Colorado, and the relevant federal land management agencies.

INTRODUCED by Commissioner Puckett Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and adopted this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025.

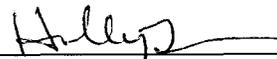
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO

By   
Laura Puckett Daniels, Chairperson

By   
Elizabeth Smith, Vice Chairperson

By   
Jonathan Houck, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Deputy County Clerk

