

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SANTA FE COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 2016 - 17**

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

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County (“County”) has a wealth of spectacular high-alpine landscapes and ecosystems on located on national public lands, including rivers, forests, wetlands, meadows and other natural resources; and

WHEREAS, these public lands within the County are the basis of our quality of life, offering extensive public recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Americans from across the nation visit our public lands to participate in activities like hiking, hunting, fishing and camping and thereby support our local and state economies; and

WHEREAS, the County works collaboratively with the United States Forest Service (“USFS”), the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”), the New Mexico State Parks Division, municipal governments and other agencies and organizations within Santa Fe County to improve public land management on a landscape scale; and

WHEREAS, these public lands provide important habitat for native wildlife populations including but not limited to bighorn sheep, elk, deer, black bear, mountain lion, pine marten, marmot, pika, and Rio Grande cutthroat trout; and

WHEREAS, these public lands within the County have historically been a valuable source of fish, game, food and medicinal herbs for traditional Hispano and Native American communities and families; and

WHEREAS, many of the watershed and Acequias originate on these public lands, providing local communities with clean water supplies; and

WHEREAS, Americans from across the United States value federal public lands as part of our national heritage, and desire to have them protected for future generations to benefit from and enjoy; and

WHEREAS, County residents participate extensively in volunteerism, helping to maintain trails, build bridges, clean up debris, provide education to visitors and much more, because of their respect and appreciation of the value of these lands for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 3,989 abandoned mines on federal public land in New Mexico, and it is estimated that New Mexico taxpayers could face between \$385 million and \$842 million in cleanup costs, should the state assume liability for the abandoned mines located on BLM and USFS lands; and

WHEREAS, the USFS spent over \$240 million in FY2011 and FY 2012 to fight wildfires on public lands in New Mexico, a cost that New Mexico taxpayers would have to pay for, should federal public lands be transferred to the state; and

WHEREAS, federal funds, labor, personnel, equipment and other specialized fire-prevention and fire-suppression assets are essential to partnering with County Government in promoting healthy forests and protecting our communities from wildfire.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County support continued national ownership and management of these treasured federal public lands in Santa Fe County, as well as in the United States generally, as national assets for all Americans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board recognizes the irreplaceable value these lands provide to our economy, recreation, quality of life and national heritage and how important it is for the County to support private and public efforts to restore the health of forests and watersheds.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 9th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

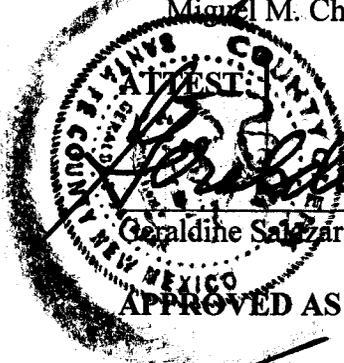
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 10TH Day Of February, 2016 at 09:18:04 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1786114
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

By: Miguel M. Chavez
Miguel M. Chavez, Chairman

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Geraldine Salazar

Deputy Laura Hernandez County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM



Geraldine Salazar
Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Gregory S. Shaffer
Gregory S. Shaffer, County Attorney



2-9-2016