



STATE OF COLORADO)
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COUNTY OF DOLORES)

At a **Regular** meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for Dolores County, Colorado, held at the Public Service Center in Dove Creek, Colorado on the 1st Day of March 2021 there were present:

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| Floyd Cook | Chairperson |
| Steve Garchar | Commissioner |
| Julie R. Kibel | Commissioner |
| Dennis Golbright | County Attorney |
| Jody Gardner | Deputy Clerk to the Board of
County Commissioners |

when the following proceedings, among others, were had and done to-wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 03/21/01

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT "30 X 30" LAND AND WATER PRESERVATION GOAL FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND

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

WHEREAS, Dolores County contains about 684,000 acres of land situated in the Southwest corner of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the federal government owns approximately 61% of the land within the County, with the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service responsible for managing over 417,900 acres of those federal lands (See, *Exhibit A*, attached hereto); and

WHEREAS, approximately 243,000 acres (nearly 35%) of land in Dolores County is privately owned, with approximately 7.5% of that land already protected with perpetual conservation easements; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1.5% of land in Dolores County is owned by the State of Colorado. Those state lands include Lone Mesa State Park, Canyon of the Ancients National Monument, and several Wilderness Study Areas; and

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

WHEREAS, Dolores County relies heavily upon the use of private and public land for its economy. Focal industries in the County include mineral resource extraction, agriculture, forest products, livestock production, mining and mineral development, and recreation, including hunting and other outdoor attractions. The largest businesses operating within the County rely entirely upon the use of public and private lands. Those businesses include Kinder Morgan CO2 Co., Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. and Montrose Forest Products, LLC; and

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the Colorado economy, and are essential contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of Dolores 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% 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% of all land and water in the United States, and no such authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008; and

WHEREAS, placing private lands into permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many states, including Colorado, and in particular rural counties such as Dolores County, whose citizens depend on such lands for their livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, is likely to cause significant harm to the economy of Dolores 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 land 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 Dolores 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 Dolores County as expressed in Resolution #01-11-15 “Coordinating County” and the Dolores County Land Use Code, initially adopted October 2000, which obligates the federal government to coordinate its policy development with Dolores County as also required by the

Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA) and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA); and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14008 at 216(a) directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other relevant federal agencies to “submit a report to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order recommending steps that the United States should take, working with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30% of our lands and waters by 2030.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Dolores County Colorado, as follows:

1. The Board opposes the 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving 30% of the Nation’s lands in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of millions of acres of our lands.
2. The Board further opposes the designation of lands in Dolores County as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conservation land, thereby restricting public access to such lands and preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
3. The Board supports the continued management of the public lands and the national forests under principles of multiple use and sustained yield, recognizing the Nation’s need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, and fiber, and in careful coordination with Dolores County to ensure consistency with County land use plans and land management policies, as required by law.
4. The Board supports maintaining and enhancing public access to public lands and national forests and opposes road closures, road decommissioning, moratoria on road construction, and other limitations on public access for the purpose of fulfilling the 30 x 30 program objectives.
5. The Board supports encouraging and maintaining the continued private ownership and control of land in the County, recognizing the Nation’s need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, and fiber.
6. The Board recognizes and supports the State of Colorado water rights system, including the doctrine of prior appropriation and other state laws and programs governing water rights and water use, and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within the County that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under Colorado law.
7. The Board supports reasonable national, regional, and global greenhouse gas emissions policies and goals that are comprehensive, practical, cost-effective, and do not unnecessarily single out specific industries or activities, but opposes the use of global climate change as an excuse to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program objectives.

8. The Board maintains that any private lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives should be acquired only from willing landowners and for the payment full and fair market value for all rights and interests acquired, and not through regulatory compulsion, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of Dolores County, its businesses, and its citizens.

9. The Board maintains that the designation of public lands and national forest lands as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conservation land to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives may lawfully occur, if at all, only through the planning process mandated by the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (for public lands) or the National Forest Management Act (for national forest lands), including public notice and an opportunity to comment, analysis and disclosure of the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of Dolores County, its businesses, and its citizens, and careful coordination with Dolores County to ensure consistency with County land use plans and land management policies.



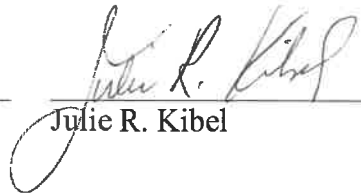
10. The Board shall send a copy of this Resolution to the Department of Interior and all other relevant Federal and State agencies; and

DONE AND SIGNED this 1st day of March 2021.




Floyd Cook, Chairperson

Commissioners voting aye in favor of the resolution were:

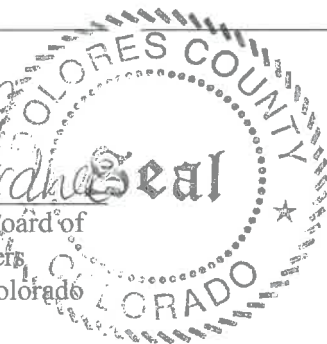
  

Floyd Cook Steve Garchar Julie R. Kibel

Commissioners voting nay against the resolution were:

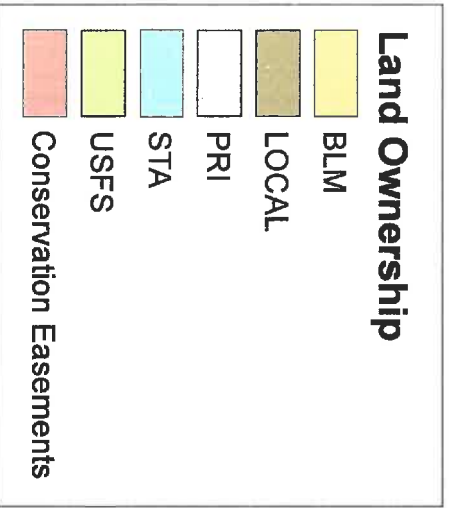
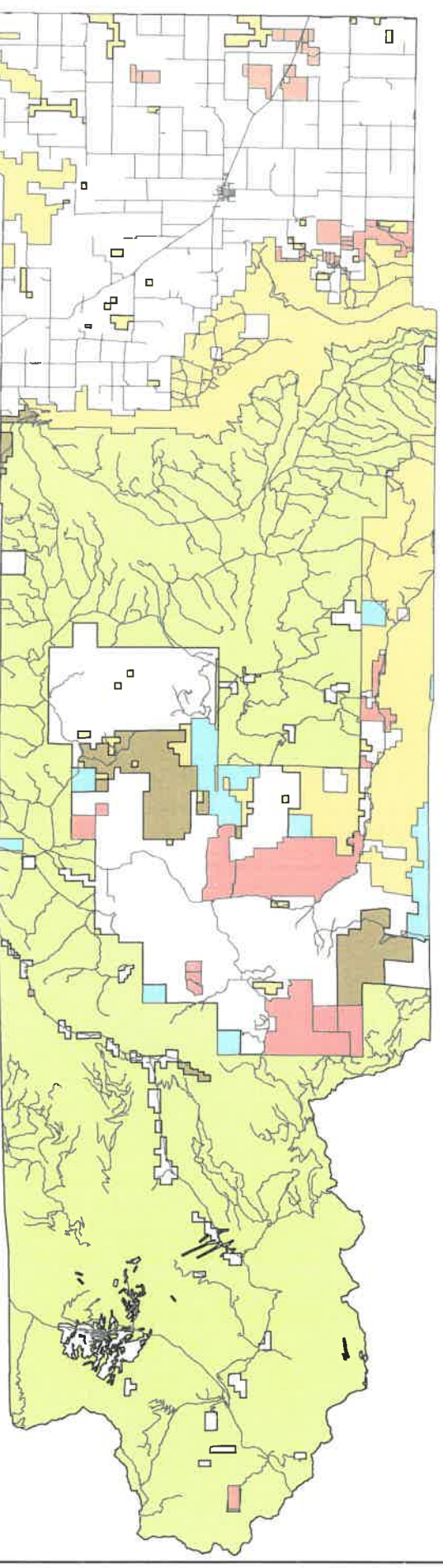


Deputy Clerk to the Board of
County Commissioners
of Dolores County, Colorado



Dolores County Land Ownership

Exhibit A



LAND	ACRES	%
BLM	89064.12879	13.01%
LOCAL - STATE	13983.38541	2.04%
PRIVATE	242805.7177	35.48%
STATE	9643.718755	1.41%
USFS	328872.7209	48.05%
TOTAL	684369.6715	100.00%
Conservation Easements of Private Land	18,167	7.48%



This map was created by the Dolores County Addressing & Mapping Dept on March 03, 2021.