

RESOLUTION 2014-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF TOOELE COUNTY, UTAH PETITIONING CONGRESS TO REIN IN RAMPANT OVERREGULATION OF PUBLIC LANDS BY FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the United States Congress to manage the publicly owned lands of the United States until those lands are turned over to the respective states; and

WHEREAS, Congress has delegated the management of these lands to various Federal administrative agencies including the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Parks Service; and

WHEREAS, other Federal agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Environmental Protection Agency exercise broad and far-reaching control over public and private lands in the western United States; and

WHEREAS, those that create policy and regulations on behalf of these various Federal administrative agencies are not directly answerable to any voters and often ignore the requests and comments submitted by state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments are all too often powerless to influence land management decisions that will directly impact the health, safety, and welfare—especially the economic welfare—of their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, because the citizens of Tooele County (“the County”) have no reasonable recourse to stop the injurious actions, as outlined below, by the Federal administrative agencies, it is necessary for the United States Congress to take action; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has and continues to jeopardize and threaten the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens, guests, and neighbors of Tooele County, Utah; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission has the responsibility and duty to defend and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and guests of the County; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed numerous species located in the County as threatened or endangered; and

WHEREAS, these listings have caused the County, its taxpayers, and property owners to expend tens of millions of dollars to mitigate potential harm to these species and their habitat; and

WHEREAS, special interest groups abuse the Endangered Species Act as a means to prevent development, access, grazing, and mineral extraction from public lands; and

WHEREAS, the listing of the sage grouse on the threatened or endangered species list would significantly limit the use of public lands throughout the western United States; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government is abusing the Migratory Bird Treaty to protect species such as the Raven that are voracious predators and cause reductions in sage grouse and other species; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service and BLM have implemented Travel Management over the objection of the County Commission and the majority of the citizens that is dramatically reducing access and recreation—and consequently harming the economy—in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has and continues to severely reduce grazing resulting in catastrophic fires that burn millions of acres of wildlife habitat and wildlife while producing hundreds of millions of pounds of pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has refused to obey and enforce Congressional requirements to remove excess wild horses from Utah, whose presence is causing long-term harm to the wide areas' excessive wild horses range; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency is endeavoring to introduce regulations to control all of the waters—including dry washes—in Utah that will cause great economic, cultural, and environmental damage; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Access to Justice Act has been and continues to be used by radical, neo environmental organizations to cause economic and environmental destruction; and

WHEREAS, policies put in place by various Federal agencies through their national offices in Washington D.C. require the local employees of the BLM, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Parks Service, and other Federal agencies to take action detrimental to the County, its residents, and guests; and

WHEREAS, while the County strives to maintain cordial working relationships with these Federal employees, those relationships are often strained because the employees are obligated to follow policies and regulations promulgated in Washington D.C.; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous actions of the Federal Government that have negatively affected the County; this petition only lists a few of those actions.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tooele County Commission petitions and requests the United States Congress to take the following actions:

1. Pass legislation that curtails the regulatory authority of agencies that are not directly answerable to voters.
2. Require administrative agencies to cooperate more closely with state and local governments by:
 - a. Only passing regulations and creating management plans that conform with state and local land use policies as set by state legislatures and county commissions; and
 - b. Give significantly more weight to comments submitted to the agency by state and local governments in the area where the proposed regulation will be carried out than to comments submitted by members of special interest groups that do not reside in the area.
3. Reversal of the Forest Service Travel Management record of decisions that have closed hundreds of miles of roads in the County and Utah and have rendered thousands of acres of public lands to become inaccessible. Additionally, reinstate all roads that have been closed due to the record of decision.
4. Through Legislation, require the BLM and USFS to remove the thousands of excess wild horses from the western United States that are damaging—and

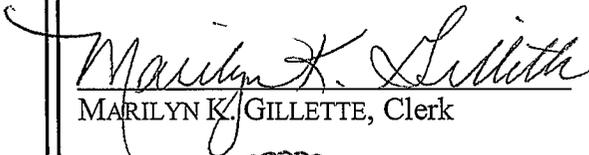
in some cases destroying—the range for wildlife, cattle, and sheep. Additionally require the BLM and USFS to maintain appropriate management levels and dispose of excess wild horses as per the Wild Horse and Burro Act as amended.

5. Restore the Endangered Species Act to what American citizens envisioned its role to be which will stop further damage to the natural resources, wildlife, and economy of the County.
6. Remove the Raven from the Migratory Bird Treaty and place the Raven on the non-protected species list under State of Utah control.
7. Immediately halt the attempt by the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers from gaining more authority over waters of the United States.
8. Immediately stop any further creation of Wilderness and revert all current Wilderness Study Areas back to full Multiple Use. Wilderness should only be designated after local governments have approved the designation.
9. Transfer public lands from the Federal Government to the State of Utah as requested by the Utah Legislature and promised in Utah's Enabling Act.

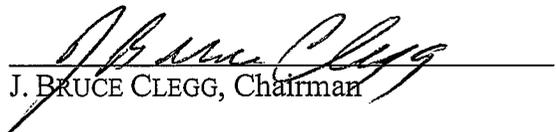
APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Tooele County, State of Utah, this 1st day of October, 2014.

ATTEST:

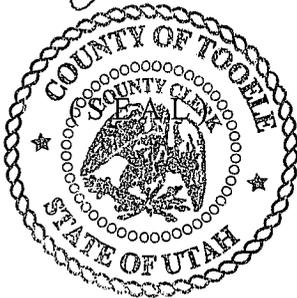
TOOELE COUNTY COMMISSION:



 MARILYN K. GILLETTE, Clerk



 J. BRUCE CLEGG, Chairman



Commissioner Clegg voted aye
 Commissioner Hurst voted aye
 Commissioner Milne voted aye

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



 DOUG HOGAN
 Tooele County Attorney