



**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2024-07**

**Supporting Luna County in Their Opposition to the Designation of the Mimbres Peaks National Monument**

WHEREAS, a private special interest group has put forward a proposal to establish the Mimbres Peaks National Monument, which would encompass approximately 245,000 acres of federal lands in the Florida, Cooke's Peak, Good Sight, and Tres Hermanas mountains situated within Luna County, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, under the 1906 Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities, presidents can unilaterally designate national monuments, by administrative fiat, without any input or involvement of the American public, community leaders, or elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the Antiquities Act was enacted before the creation of federal land management laws, and was intended to be used in emergency situations to protect historic artifacts, and sites of scientific value, from "imminent threat" which in all cases should be confined to the smallest area necessary; and

WHEREAS, since its establishment 118 years ago, the Antiquities Act has been misused for political purposes by presidents with large scale designations intended to limit specific uses, activities, or access to vast areas of public lands; allowing unfettered governmental control and hindering the productive use of those lands; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008 entitled Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Aboard (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 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which was called the "30 x 30" program, but was recently "rebranded" as "America the Beautiful"; and

WHEREAS, this monument designation appears to be nothing more than another attempt at a federal land grab driven by political motivation, outside interests, and the acquisition of personal gain provided through the monetization of our nation's natural assets at the expense of hardworking Americans; and

WHEREAS, serious concerns have been raised by an overwhelming majority of members from the Luna County community over the exclusion of stakeholders, namely the farmers, ranchers, miners, and outdoor enthusiasts of Luna County, both from within and outside of the boundaries of the proposed monument; and



WHEREAS, creating additional federal lands and by placing public lands into permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many states, including New Mexico, and in particular rural counties such as Luna County whose citizens depend on multiple use on public lands for their livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, Luna County Board of Commissioners passed Resolution No. 24-15, on January 19, 2024, which opposes the establishment of the Mimbres Peaks National Monument; and

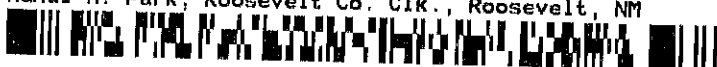
WHEREAS, on March 22, 2024, the United States Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a challenge to the Antiquities Act, which contends that it is the most abused of the federal land statutes, particularly important in the western states where the intermingling of federal lands and local economies is extensive and intricate; and

WHEREAS, many of New Mexico's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize federal lands and their resources, including the oil and gas industry, livestock grazing, mining and mineral development, recreational industries, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the New Mexico economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of our Counties and their citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Roosevelt County, New Mexico, as follows:

1. The Board fully supports Luna County, New Mexico, and its residents, in their opposition to the designation of approximately 245,000 acres as the Mimbres Peaks National Monument.
2. The Board opposes the 30 x 30, America the Beautiful, and Agenda 2030 programs, including the objective of permanently preserving 30 percent of the Nation's lands in their natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of millions of acres of our lands.
3. The Board further opposes the designation of lands, whether private lands or government lands, in New Mexico as national monuments, 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.
4. The Board opposes any federal rulemaking, by the Bureau of Land Management, or any federal agency, which promotes any non-tangible status goals on public lands as a valid multiple use for those lands.



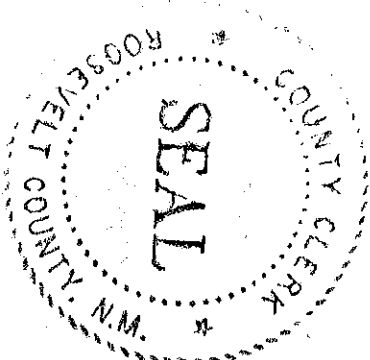
5. The Board does not support any monetization of America's natural assets (i.e. natural processes or ecosystem services), or the practice of allowing outside investors and foreign interests to have any ownership in those things which belong wholly to the American people.
6. The Board supports the continued private ownership of land in New Mexico, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, and fiber.
7. The Board recognizes and supports the State of New Mexico's water rights system, and other state laws and programs governing water rights and water use and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within the State that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under New Mexico law.
8. 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's objectives.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** on this 20th day of February, 2024 by the Roosevelt County Board of Commissioners in an open meeting in Portales, New Mexico.

**BODY OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ROOSEVELT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

ATTEST:

*Mandi M. Park*  
Mandi Park, Roosevelt County Clerk



*Tina Dixon*  
Tina Dixon, Chair – District IV  
Voted:  Yes  No  Abstained

*Roy Lee Criswell*  
Roy Lee Criswell, Vice Chair – District III  
Voted:  Yes  No  Abstained

*Dennis Lopez*  
Dennis Lopez – District I  
Voted:  Yes  No  Abstained

*Rodney Savage*  
Rodney Savage – District III  
Voted:  Yes  No  Abstained

*Paul Grider*  
Paul Grider – District V  
Voted:  Yes  No  Abstained

*MP*

