

Commissioner Boyd moved adoption  
of the following Resolution:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF EAGLE, STATE OF COLORADO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 057**

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE INHERENT VALUE OF PUBLIC LANDS TO QUALITY  
OF LIFE IN EAGLE COUNTY, THE REGION'S HERITAGE, ECOSYSTEMS, ECONOMY,  
AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES; AND ENCOURAGING CONTINUED FEDERAL  
OWNERSHIP OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS WITH WELL-RESOURCED FEDERAL LAND  
MANAGEMENT AGENCIES**

**WHEREAS**, Eagle County includes a unique array of scenic, wild, and natural landscapes, including mountains, rivers, forests, and lakes; and

**WHEREAS**, public lands under the management of federal agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, currently comprise seventy-eight (78) percent of land in Eagle County; and

**WHEREAS**, these federally administered public lands are essential to the quality of life in Eagle County, providing extensive public recreational opportunities for wildlife watching, hiking, hunting, fishing, backpacking, sport shooting, horseback riding, skiing, bicycling, sightseeing, and numerous other outdoor recreational activities; and include grazing lands for agricultural operations, and have spiritual and cultural significance; and

**WHEREAS**, these same federally administered public lands provide essential habitat for fish and wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, wildlife and exceptionally scenic landscapes of Eagle County's federal public lands attract outdoor recreation and tourism, which are important to Eagle County's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Eagle County deeply value these public lands for their multiple uses and accessibility regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or gender, as evidenced by high participation in local stewardship, conservation, research, and organizations and events; and

**WHEREAS**, businesses, employers, quality employees, and the tourists, who are a significant component of our economy, are attracted to Eagle County in large part due to the high quality of life arising from expansive wild landscapes and outdoor recreational opportunities available on federally managed public lands in and near Eagle County; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2024 Conservation in the West Poll found that eighty-five (85) percent of Westerners support creating new national parks, national monuments, national wildlife refuges, and tribal protected areas to conserve historic sites or areas for outdoor recreation; and

**WHEREAS**, unified, experienced, and consistent management of federal public lands by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service across the nation, together with robust public input, best protects the national value and utility of the public lands for all Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe that management of federal public lands and wildlife via long-established collaborative approaches in which federal land management agencies cooperate with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Eagle County officials, local stewardships organizations, and the community are more likely to produce effective management than would ownership or management of federal public lands by private citizens, corporations, or the state of Colorado; and

**WHEREAS**, Eagle County residents actively collaborate among diverse interests and with public land managers to improve equitable public land management and public access; and

**WHEREAS**, Eagle County created an Open Space Program ("Open Space") and has invested significant funds from that program in the conservation of lands for the benefit of Eagle County's residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, Eagle County works collaboratively with federal public land managers in the maintenance and operation of many of its Open Space parcels; and

**WHEREAS**, the costs associated with managing federal public lands are a national responsibility, and federal involvement is crucial for the long-term health and sustainability of these resources; and

**WHEREAS**, federal money, manpower, aircraft, and other specialized fire prevention and firefighting assets essential to protecting our communities, infrastructure, and public lands are unavailable at the state and county levels, and due to recent drought and insect infestations, forests in Eagle County could be more prone to wildfire; and

**WHEREAS**, Eagle County is aware of the actual and proposed budget cuts and layoffs at the U.S. Forest 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, all of which will reduce their collective ability to prevent and fight wildfires and conserve these lands for the benefit of future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, federal land management agencies directly and indirectly employ many full-time residents of Eagle County, contributing significantly to the fiscal and social health of the county; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the dedicated federal employees who work in collaboration with the public and local and state land managers to protect these federal lands and provide for a variety of uses and experiences on these lands; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that there may be certain circumstances in which a limited transfer of federal public lands may be appropriate and beneficial to local communities.

**WHEREAS**, any plan to transfer, lease, or sell off or privatize public lands without a public process would be inconsistent with the values and interests of the residents of Eagle County, the broader Colorado community, and the nation as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, these federal public lands are held in trust for the benefit of all Americans and people throughout the country who value federal public lands as a distinctly prideful part of our national heritage, no matter in which state they live.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Eagle County, Colorado:

**THAT**, the Eagle County Board of County Commissioners recognizes the irreplaceable value that federal public lands within Eagle County bring to our county's quality of life, heritage, ecosystems, economy, and recreational opportunities.

**THAT**, the Eagle County Board of County Commissioners supports continued federal land ownership and management in Eagle County.

**THAT**, the Eagle County Board of County Commissioners commends the dedicated federal employees who manage America's public lands in Eagle County, as well as dedicated employees of the State of Colorado who manage fish, wildlife, and forests in Eagle County, in partnership with local and federal public land managers.

**THAT**, the Eagle County Board of County Commissioners generally opposes broad and indiscriminate efforts to sell, transfer, or dispose of these public lands, as well as efforts to take over, litigate for, or sell federal public lands within Eagle County except when such disposition is pursuant to legislative and regulatory processes established by Congress in the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and other applicable law, and for purposes supported by the Eagle County Board of County Commissioners and its constituents, including its Open Space and Natural Resources Department, following public participation, site analysis and consideration of community implications of a transfer.

**THAT**, the Eagle County Board of County Commissioners opposes any attempts to change the Antiquities Act or reduce the size of our national monuments.

**THAT**, Eagle County supports and honors the memorialization of the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument; and

**THAT**, Eagle County recognizes the multiple uses of public lands, including conservation, as an important use alongside grazing and recreation, and encourages a balanced approach to land management.

**THAT**, Eagle County expresses its strong support for the continued federal management and stewardship of public lands within Eagle County.

**THAT**, Eagle County encourages the maintenance of appropriate funding levels and workforce numbers at public land management agencies in order to capably manage public lands for the benefit of all Americans.

**THAT**, Eagle County 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.

**THAT**, Eagle County 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.

**THAT**, the board finds, determines, and declares that this Resolution is necessary for the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the County of Eagle, State of Colorado.

**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.

**MOVED, READ AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Eagle, State of Colorado, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2025.

Signed by:



COUNTY OF EAGLE, STATE OF COLORADO,  
By and Through Its BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

Signed by:

*Betsy Close*

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Clerk to the Board of  
County Commissioners

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*Jeanne McQueeney*

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By:

Jeanne McQueeney  
Chair

Signed by:

*Tom Boyd*

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Tom Boyd  
Commissioner

Signed by:

*Matt Scherr*

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Matt Scherr  
Commissioner

Commissioner Scherr seconded adoption of the foregoing resolution. The roll having been called, the vote was as follows:

Commissioner McQueeney	<u>Aye</u>
Commissioner Boyd	<u>Aye</u>
Commissioner Scherr	<u>Aye</u>

This resolution passed by 3/0 vote of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Eagle, State of Colorado.