

RESOLUTION OPPOSING PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER 14008

whereas, Crowley County is a legal and political subdivision of the State of Colorado for which the Board of county Commissioners ("Board") is authorized to act;

whereas, Crowley County contains about 512,000 acres of land situated in Southeastern Colorado; and

whereas, approximately 16% or 84,328 acres of land within the County is owned or managed under either Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Trust, or Conservation Reserve Program; and

whereas, Public land ownership in Colorado in the year of 2019 was 39.86 percent of the State not including CRP lands. Public land ownership, including CRP lands in 2019, was 35.77 percent of all lands within the United States.

whereas, conserving lands does not assure its preservation. Left in an undisturbed or natural state, these lands are highly susceptible to wildland wildfires, insect infestation, and disease, all of which degrades the natural and human environments; and

whereas, the wellbeing, health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of the County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on private land ownership and the use of these lands; and

whereas, many of Crowley County's businesses and citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on commerce that utilizes private lands and their resources, including crop production, livestock grazing, and outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, boating, gardening, and other recreational activities; and

whereas, this commerce is an important component of the Colorado economy, and is a major contributor to the economic and social wellbeing of Crowley 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 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which is called the "30x30" program; and

whereas, under the 30x30 program, some 680 million acres of our Nation's lands would be set aside through conservation, preventing the productive use of these lands and their resources; and

whereas, there is no constitutional or statutory authority afforded to any President, the Department of Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set aside and permanently conserve 30 percent 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 a dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many states, including Colorado, and in particular rural counties such as Crowley County, whose citizens depend on private lands for their livelihoods and recreation; 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 percent of our lands and waters by 2030."


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Crowley County, Colorado, that:

1. The Board opposes the 30x30 program, including its objective of permanently conserving 30 percent of the Nation's lands and waters in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of millions of acres of out lands.
2. The Board further opposes the designation of lands in Crowley County as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conserved lands, 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 private ownership of land in the County, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, fiber, and recreation.
4. The Board recognizes and supports the State of Colorado's and private water system, including the State of Colorado's Statutes and regulations and programs governing water rights and water use, and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within the State and County that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under Colorado law.
5. The Board supports reasonable national, regional, and global greenhouse gas emissions policies and goals that are comprehensive, practical, cost-effective, non-draconian, and do not unnecessarily single out specific industries or activities but opposes the use of global climate change as a reason to set aside large tracts of land as conservation lands to fulfill the 30x30 program's objectives.
6. The Board also maintains that any lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the 30x30 program's objectives should be acquired only from willing landowners and for the payment of full and fair market value for all rights and interests acquired, and not through eminent domain or any other 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 Crowley County, its businesses, and its citizens.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of April 2022, in Ordway, Crowley County, Colorado.

ATTEST:
(SEAL)



Melinda Carter,
Crowley County Clerk & Recorder



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CROWLEY COUNTY, COLORADO



Blaine Arbuthnot, Chairman



Roy Elliott, Vice-Chairman



Terry McMillian, Commissioner