

RESOLUTION NO. 10/17/23

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE'S RECENT LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ANY CONSERVATION DESIGNATION OR RESTRICTION OF LANDS IN SANPETE COUNTY, UTAH UNDER THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S "30 x 30" INITIATIVE WITHOUT THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF SANPETE COUNTY

WHEREAS, approximately 52% of the total area within the borders of Sanpete County, Utah is owned and/or managed by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, approximately 63% of the total area within the borders of the State of Utah is owned and/or managed by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the State of Utah is exceeded only by the State of Nevada in the percentage of land within its borders owned and/or managed by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, only 42% of the total land mass in Sanpete County is private land subject to ad valorem taxation; and

WHEREAS, recent studies prepared for the State of Utah have found that the federal Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILT) program returns a fraction of the revenue to local governments compared to what would be derived from similar private lands; and

WHEREAS, Sanpete County and all other public lands counties in Utah have adopted Resource Management Plans describing how federal lands should be managed for multiple use and sustained yield; and

WHEREAS, Section 216 of executive Order 14008 issued by President Joseph Biden calls for the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a report for recommending steps to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30% of lands and waters in the United States of America by 2030 (30 x 30 Initiative); and

WHEREAS, production of natural resources on federal lands; including coal, oil, natural gas, and timber is critical to the American economy and the Sanpete way of life—while decreasing America’s reliance on foreign imports and enhancing our geopolitical security; and

WHEREAS, mismanagement of federal lands, including reductions in timber harvesting, prescribed burning, and vegetation treatments has contributed to the degradation of certain federal lands and increased the risk of catastrophic wildfires, insect infestations, and watershed impairment; and

WHEREAS, the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, as enshrined in the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), outline a path to protect land and water in the United States; while simultaneously balancing the sustainable use and extraction of natural resources from federal land for the benefit of the American people and recreational enjoyment of the same; and

WHEREAS, FLPMA requires the United States Forest Service to coordinate with local governments and attempt to achieve consistency with local government plans to the greatest degree possible; and

WHEREAS, the extraction of natural resources, agriculture, and recreation-based tourism on federal lands in Sanpete County is the primary engine of economic activity in the County—providing high paying jobs, mineral lease royalties, sales and property taxes paid by the natural resource industry and associated industries, and revenues created by tourism;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SANPETE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

1. The Board of Sanpete County Commissioners hereby oppose any additional conservation protections or restrictions placed on federal lands within Sanpete County in pursuit of the current Forest Service Land Management Plan and Executive Order 14008 without the express written consent of the Sanpete County Commission.
2. The Sanpete County Commissioners hereby call upon the United States Congress to enact legislation protecting county governments from unilateral imposition of unwanted conservation protections and restrictions on federal lands by and presidential administration—whether through the current United States Forrest Service Land Management Plan or other similar restrictive means by the federal government.

3. The Sanpete County Commissioners hereby call upon Utah's Congressional Delegation, the Utah State Legislature, the Utah Attorney General, and the Governor of Utah to actively oppose actions by the Biden Administration to impose conservation protections and restrictions on federal lands without the express written consent and cooperation of the county government where the affected federal lands are located.

DATED this 17 day of Oct 2023.

SANPETE COUNTY,

By Scott Bartholomew  
Scott Bartholomew, Chairman

ATTEST:

Linda Christiansen  
Linda Christiansen  
Sanpete County Clerk

Vote of the County Commissioners was as follows:

Scott Bartholomew	<u>X</u> Yes	No <u>   </u>
Reed Hatch	<u>X</u> Yes	No <u>   </u>
Scott Collard	<u>X</u> Yes	No <u>   </u>