

**SIERRA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION No. 2025-11**

RESOLUTION OPPOSING ABUSE OF THE ANTIQUITIES ACT

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Sierra County met in a regularly scheduled meeting on January 28, 2025, at the Sierra County Administration 1712 North Date Street, Truth or Consequences, NM 87901; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Sierra exercises the powers of the County as a body politic and corporate pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 4-38-1(1884); and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is the body that is statutorily charged with making such orders concerning the property belonging to the county as it deems expedient pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 4-38-13 (1876); and,

WHEREAS, under the 1906 Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities, presidents may 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, creating additional federal lands and placing public lands into permanent conservation status causes dramatic and irreversible harm to New Mexico's economy; and

WHEREAS, many businesses and 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 our national economy and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Sierra County that it opposes the designation of lands, whether private lands or government lands 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Sierra County that it calls on Congress to repeal the Preservation of American Antiquities Act or, in the alternative, eliminate the President's discretion to make such designations and require the approval of impacted local governments.

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED on this 28th day of January 2025.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



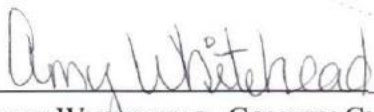
TRAVIS DAY, MEMBER

ATTEST BY:





Hank Hopkins (Jan 29, 2025 12:30 MST)
HANK HOPKINS, MEMBER



AMY WHITEHEAD, COUNTY CLERK



JIM PAXON, MEMBER






Resolution No. 2025-11 In Opposition to Antiquities Act001

Final Audit Report

2025-01-29

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