

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-21**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS  
TO WILLING STATES AND AFFIRMING COUNTY'S RIGHTS OF  
ASSOCIATION**

**WHEREAS, an interest group opposed to the transfer of public lands to state ownership continues its character assassination attempts against those leading the public land transfer movement; and**

**WHEREAS, Daggett County remains fully supportive of Utah's efforts to acquire ownership of the majority of public lands within its borders; and**

**WHEREAS, since it is an appropriate and common lawful practice for counties to dedicate funds and leverage resources by uniting with other counties or organizations to protect and promote the interests of the county and its citizens; and**

**WHEREAS, many counties containing federally controlled public lands are profoundly impacted by declining access, decreasing environmental health, and depressed economic productivity on a high percentage of federally managed public lands within their jurisdiction; and**

**WHEREAS, many counties and their citizens have devoted many years of countless hours in an effort to work with federal land management agencies to improve conditions on federally managed public lands but have seen little to no progress; and**

**WHEREAS, the federal government has proven itself unresponsive, unaccountable, unwilling, or unable to make the necessary corrections to improve access, health, and productivity on the public lands; and**

**WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution in Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 delegates to Congress "the power to dispose of" (i.e. sell, transfer or grant) territorial lands and other property — NOT to keep them forever; and**

**WHEREAS, history, past practice with the majority of public lands in states east of the Rocky Mountains, and the statehood enabling acts affirm the federal government was only to hold public lands in trust until the lands were turned over to their respective states; and**

**WHEREAS, a recent, credible law review article and an economic study lend support to the legal arguments and economic feasibility favoring the transfer of public lands to the states; and**

**WHEREAS the United States has transferred large tracts of public lands to individual States on numerous occasions in the past and today states continue to profitably manage millions of acres of these public lands; and**

**WHEREAS, our state will manage the public lands currently under federal control (1) more responsibly, (2) with greater accountability to the people, and (3) with greater willingness to**

work with affected counties—thus ensuring continued public access, reduced invasive wildlife and wildfire threats, environmental protections, and compatible livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties supports the transfer of public lands to willing states; and

WHEREAS, the American Lands Council (“ALC”) was created by and is governed by county commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the ALC files all required public financial disclosures; and

WHEREAS, the ALC is the leading organization in the country in unifying counties, educating elected officials, and advocating for state and national legislation that seeking the transfer of federally managed public lands to willing states; and

WHEREAS, counties that choose to join ALC do so in an open and public meetings by the power of their authority and in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws; and

WHEREAS, the ALC Board of Directors hired leading expert Ken Ivory to serve as President of ALC; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the legislative body of Daggett County that:


We hereby affirm our right and responsibility to be involved in all matters impacting public health, safety, and welfare; and the right to leverage our efforts with others when such associations are joined in an open, transparent, and lawful manner; and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED that we support the State of Utah and other willing states in their efforts to regain control of their federally managed public lands; and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED that we support the American Lands Council and its steadfast efforts to effect better public access, better environmental health, and better economic productivity through lawfully pursuing state control of federally managed public lands.

DAGGETT COUNTY

  
Legislative Body Chair

  
Printed Name

ATTEST:

Sue Oldrenshaw  
County Clerk

SUE OLDRENSHAW  
Printed Name



Commissioner Perry voted yea  nay

Commissioner Slaugh voted yea  nay

Commissioner Lytle voted yea  nay

Approved as to Form:

Neil R. Ladd  
Deputy County Attorney

Date: June 30, 2015