

RESOLUTION NO. 27
Series of 2016

A RESOLUTION STATING THE VALUE OF PUBLIC LANDS TO THE TOWN OF VAIL'S ECONOMY, RECREATION, HERITAGE, AND QUALITY OF LIFE, AND SUPPORTING CONTINUED FEDERAL OWNERSHIP OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS, AND SETTING FORTH DETAILS IN REGARD THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Town of Vail in the County of Eagle and State of Colorado is a home rule municipal corporation duly organized and existing under the laws and of the State of Colorado and the Town Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Vail and land adjacent to the town contain a wealth of scenic, wild, and natural landscapes including mountains, rivers, forests, creeks, and lakes; and

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

WHEREAS, these federal administered public lands are essential to the quality of life in the Town of Vail and 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

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Vail's attraction to businesses, employers, quality employees, and the guests who are a significant component of our economy overwhelmingly flows from the high quality of life arising out of the expansive wild landscapes and outdoor recreational opportunities available on surrounding federally managed public lands; and

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

WHEREAS, management of federally administered public lands by the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management in compliance with federal law best protects the national value and utility of the public lands for all Americans and the values on which the economy in the Town of Vail are dependent; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Vail created an Open Space Program and has invested significant funds from that program in the conservation of lands for the benefit of residents and guests; and

WHEREAS, federal funds, manpower, aircraft and other specialized fire prevention and firefighting assets are 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 prone to wildfire; and

WHEREAS, federally administered public lands contain headwaters that provide clean water for municipal water supplies, fisheries and ranching integral to the County's economy quality of life and public welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Vail Town Council recognizes that rare circumstances may warrant the limited transfer of federal public lands under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF VAIL, COLORADO:

THAT, the Vail Town Council strongly supports continued federal land ownership and management in the town of Vail and Eagle County, and the irreplaceable value these public lands bring to our county's economy, recreation, environment, heritage and quality of life.

THAT, the Vail Town Council commends the dedicated federal employees who manage America's public lands in Eagle County, as well as the dedicated employees of the State of Colorado who manage fish, wildlife, and forests in the region, in partnership with the federal public land managers.

INTRODUCED, READ, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 16^h day of August 2016.

David Chapin, Mayor, Town of Vail

ATTEST:

Patty McKenny, Town Clerk