

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2017-243

A RESOLUTION OF THE MISSOULA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF FEDERAL LANDS TO ITS RESIDENTS, ECONOMY, AND QUALITY OF LIFE.

WHEREAS, more than half of all land in Missoula County is owned by a federal land management agency; and

WHEREAS, approximately 70 percent of Missoula County is forested, with the majority of those areas under management by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service, and are within three different national forests: Lolo National Forest, Flathead National Forest, and the Bitterroot National Forest; and

WHEREAS, these lands connect to large intact ecosystems and contain important resources and diverse ecosystems that provide wildlife habitat, clean air, clean water, scenic open space, timber and non-timber forest products, and significant economic benefit; and

WHEREAS, Missoula County is committed to conserving these vital resources and supports efforts to restore and maintain healthy forests; and

WHEREAS, Missoula County residents and the general public benefit from public lands through access to numerous recreation opportunities that also provide significant economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, Missoula County and its residents actively engage with federal land management agencies and are committed to continued partnership and collaboration; and

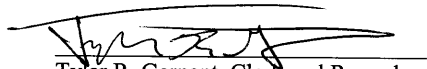
WHEREAS, continued public ownership and management of these lands will ensure stewardship for the benefit of all, protected access to these lands, and continued economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is not in response to an existing proposal to sell or transfer these public lands but rather is a preemptive statement on the importance of public lands.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners supports federal land ownership and management.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14 day of December, 2017.

ATTEST:


Tyler R. Gemant, Clerk and Recorder

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MISSOULA COUNTY


Jean Curtiss, Chair


Nicole Rowley, Commissioner


David Strohmaier, Commissioner

