

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-vi-15(c)

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF JACKSON COUNTY, COLORADO CONCERNING SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY AND GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

WHEREAS, Jackson County supports management of greater sage-grouse through state, local and private conservation efforts rather than federal land-use restrictions or a federal listing under the Endangered Species Act (“ESA”); and,

WHEREAS, a coalition of counties, agricultural, mining and energy interests (the “Coalition”) has challenged BLM’s NTT Report, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s COT Report and the USGS sage grouse Monograph (the “Reports”) under the federal Data Quality Act; and,

WHEREAS, these challenges detail at great length serious questions of scientific integrity and transparency with the Reports; and,

WHEREAS, federal agencies are relying upon the Reports to amend some 98 land use plans across approximately 50 million acres of BLM managed land and nine million acres of National Forests in eleven western states; and,

WHEREAS, the DQA requires federal agencies to ensure and maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information disseminated; and,

WHEREAS, the Reports fail to meet basic standards of science, resulting in misinformed policies and restrictions; and,

WHEREAS, reliance on this biased and faulty information has and will continue to harm the public, greater sage-grouse and western economies.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Jackson County, Colorado:

- 1) believes state management of wildlife is better suited to balance economic activities with robust protections for sage grouse as they were developed using a bottom-up process with input from diverse stakeholders, rather than the top-down approach taken by the federal agencies;
- 2) urges the BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and USGS to retract the Reports and withdraw them from consideration in land use plan amendments and the upcoming ESA listing decision for sage grouse;
- 3) urges the state legislature to adopt a similar resolution as this; and
- 4) urges Congress to delay listing sage grouse under the ESA for a period no less than 10 years to support continued local, state and private conservation efforts for sage grouse without serious and adverse effects to private property rights, economic development and western communities.

The above and foregoing Resolution was, on a motion duly made and seconded, adopted by the following vote on the 15th day of June 2015:




James A. Murphy, Chair (AYE)(NAY)


Charles B. Clayton, Commissioner (AYE)(NAY)


Betsy Blecha, Commissioner (AYE)(NAY)


Hayle M. Johnson, Jackson County Clerk

and ex-officio Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners of Jackson County, Colorado

Dr. J. H. H. H. H.