

RESOLUTION NO. R-2015-1912

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE DESIGNATION OF A GRAND CANYON WATERSHED NATIONAL MONUMENT IN NORTHERN ARIZONA DUE TO CONCERNS OVER THE LOSS OF MULTIPLE USE OF PUBLIC LANDS IN THE AREA DIRECTLY SOUTH OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

WHEREAS, nearly twenty years ago President Clinton Created the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Southern Utah without seeking the consent or advice of the State of Utah or local counties; and

WHEREAS, it is now clear that the creation of an enormous national monument—nearly 2 million acres in size—with no local input has resulted in a loss of employment opportunities and severe land use restrictions that fundamentally change the lifestyles and culture of those living in the area; and

WHEREAS, interest groups that have been unsuccessful in obtaining results through Congress are encouraging President Obama to arbitrarily create a Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument—1.7 million acres in size—in northern Arizona, much of which could be located on the Arizona Strip directly south of Washington County; and

WHEREAS, significant portions of the public lands within the proposed monument are already protected through wilderness designations; and

WHEREAS, public land managers have a responsibility to the residents of Utah and Arizona to ensure continued opportunities for multiple-use recreational and commercial activities on public lands; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act's emphasis on multiple-use of public lands, neither the U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") have established objectives for preserving multiple uses on public lands in Arizona and Utah; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Commission strongly opposes the designation of the "Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument" in northern Arizona, which would lock away 1.7 million acres of land.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Washington County stands with Arizona Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake in stating:

"The greatest threat to the watershed of the Grand Canyon is the ongoing 15-year drought in the Southwest. A national monument designation does nothing to address the historically low snowmelt or surface water levels that feed the Colorado River and its tributaries. Arguably, the creation of a new monument might worsen watershed health if land managers and private owners overpopulated wildlife. Arizona

cannot afford to have its hands tied when it comes to controlling wildlife populations, enhancing water supplies, and preventing wildfires.”
(Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake, News Release March 10, 2015.)

VOTED UPON AND PASSED BY THE WASHINGTON COUNTY
COMMISSION AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY
COMMISSION HELD ON THE 16TH DAY OF JUNE, 2015.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

ALAN D. GARDNER, Chair
Washington County Commission

ATTEST:

Kim M. Hafen
Washington County Clerk-Auditor

Commissioner Gardner voted ____
Commissioner Iverson voted ____
Commissioner Renstrom voted ____

Approved as to Form:

Deputy Washington County Attorney