

PROCLAMATION
DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY IN GRAND COUNTY, UTAH DUE TO
THE ECONOMIC DISRUPTIONS ARISING OUT OF THE CLOSURE OF ARCHES AND
CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARKS AND FEDERALLY MANAGED CAMPGROUNDS
AND RIVERWAYS

WHEREAS, Grand County is a political subdivision of the State of Utah;

WHEREAS, over 75% of land in Grand County is managed by the federal government;

WHEREAS, Arches National Park ("Arches") or "the Park" is located in Grand County;

WHEREAS, Grand County is the gateway to Island in the Sky District of Canyonlands National Park ("Canyonlands"), located in San Juan County;

WHEREAS, Grand County receives approximately 2.5 million visitors annually, with over two-thirds of those visitors utilizing commercial areas of Grand County to gain access to the Parks;

WHEREAS, those visitors not only enjoy the natural beauties of Arches and Canyonlands, but also enjoy the accommodations, restaurants, and shopping venues in Grand County;

WHEREAS, a significant number of residents in Grand County rely on the tourism industry created by Arches and Canyonlands visitors for income;

WHEREAS, approximately 76% of Grand County's economy is dependent upon tourism;

WHEREAS, over 90,000 visitors come to Arches in the month of October to enjoy the fall temperatures and avoid the summer crowds—by no means has the tourism season ended at the beginning of October;

WHEREAS, visitors also come to Grand County to recreate in federally managed lands outside of the national parks—especially during the elk, deer, and bear hunt season that occurs annually during October;

WHEREAS, the operation of federally managed campgrounds and riverways brings tourism to Grand County;

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2013, the federal government closed Arches and Canyonlands, as well as all of the other National Parks, National Recreation Facilities, and federally managed campgrounds and riverways in the State of Utah;

WHEREAS, this closure is having a devastating impact on those Grand County residents who rely on visitors to all federally managed lands;

WHEREAS, this severe and direct impact has an indirect impact on the rest of the economy in Grand County because of the lack of spending by those residents directly impacted by the lack of tourists;

WHEREAS, Grand County estimates over \$2.6 million in lost revenue to date since October 1, 2013 in commercial business alone;

WHEREAS, Canyonlands Natural History Association estimates losses of \$119,000 in Grand County to date since October 1, 2013;

WHEREAS, Grand County estimates continued loss in revenue of \$380,000 per day; WHEREAS, the overall economic disruptions caused by the closure, which is an "internal disturbance" under the law, are sufficient for Grand County to declare a Local Emergency;


NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Utah Code Annotated Section 53-2a-208, on behalf of the citizens of Grand County, the Grand County Council declares Grand County to be in a state of "Local Emergency";

FURTHERMORE, pursuant to Utah Code Annotated Section 53-2a-208(2)(d), Grand County is authorized to provide all appropriate aid and assistance in relation to this Proclamation.

GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL


Gene Ciarus, Grand County Council Chair
October 8, 2013

ATTEST:



Diana Carroll
Grand County Clerk/Auditor