

#12-02  
**RESOLUTION**  
**OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING**

**WHEREAS**, conditions of extreme peril to the people, property and environment exist within portions of the Black Hills National Forest, caused by the number of dead and diseased trees as a result of infestation by mountain pine beetles; and

**WHEREAS**, the outbreak of the mountain pine beetle epidemic on the South Dakota side of the Black Hills has caused the death of trees on thousands of acres, resulting in conditions of imminent fire danger, potential for flooding, erosion and other environmental and economic damage, and hazards from falling trees; and

**WHEREAS**, other national forest in Wyoming, particularly the Medicine Bow, have already been devastated by mountain pine beetle epidemics; and

**WHEREAS**, the mountain pine beetle epidemic is spreading into the Black Hills National Forest within Weston County, Wyoming and onto private forested lands within Weston County and is causing a critical situation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wyoming Division of State Forestry, the Weston County Weed and Pest District and private industry have all informed this Board that the most cost effective way to control this disaster is to attack it now; and

**WHEREAS**, Weston County is joining with State and Federal Agencies and private entities to control the spread of the mountain pine beetle epidemic, it has insufficient resources to prevent the mountain pine beetle epidemic from spreading into Weston County, Wyoming without additional State and Federal assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, unless the mountain pine beetle epidemic is addressed now and the risks posed by dead and dying trees are immediately reduced, there will be an increasingly great risk to life and property from catastrophic fire in an area with limited routes for the evacuation of people and emergency response within Weston County; and

**WHEREAS**, the mountain pine beetle epidemic, while slow in motion, has many of the environmental and economic consequences of catastrophic wildfire which would be declared an emergency; and


**WHEREAS**, if the mountain pine beetle epidemic continues unabated it will devastate the tourism and forest products industry that is one of the largest private employers in Northeast Wyoming causing the loss of jobs in Weston County and loss to private landowners; and

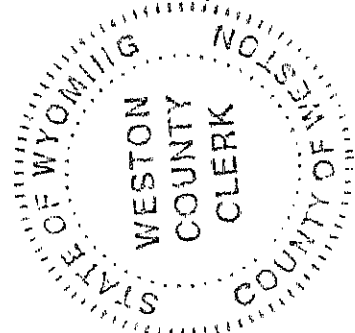
**THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of Weston County Commissioners on behalf of the citizens of Weston County, request the Governor of the State of Wyoming to declare Weston County, Wyoming an area of emergency, and as such provide assistance in the form of money and manpower to mitigate the devastation caused by the mountain pine beetle, a designated pest in the state of Wyoming.

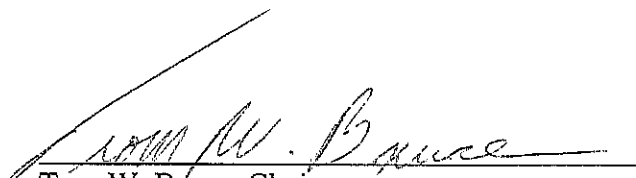
**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Weston County Commissioners this  
17<sup>th</sup> day of Jan., 2011.

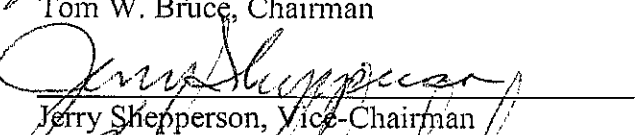
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING**

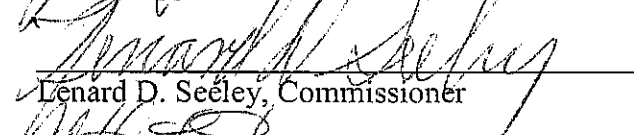
ATTEST:

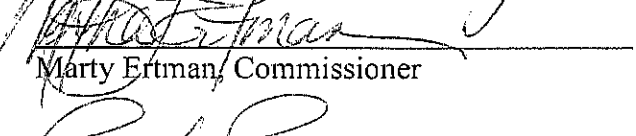
  
Mamie C. Krank, Weston County Clerk

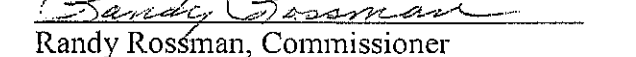


  
Tom W. Bruce, Chairman

  
Jerry Shepperson, Vice-Chairman

  
Lenard D. Seeley, Commissioner

  
Marty Ertman, Commissioner

  
Randy Rossmann, Commissioner