

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-11**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S "30 X 30" LAND PRESERVATION GOAL**

**WHEREAS**, Weston County is a legal and political subdivision of the State of Wyoming for which the Board of County Commissioners is authorized to act; and

**WHEREAS**, Weston County containing about 1,536,064 acres of land situated in North East corner of Wyoming; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government owns 20.04% of the land within the County, and the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are responsible for managing over 307,840 acres of these federal lands as illustrated in *Exhibit A*, attached hereto"; and

**WHEREAS**, designating lands as wilderness does not assure its preservation. Left in an undisturbed or natural state, these lands are highly susceptible to wild land wildfires, insect infestation and disease, all of which degrades the natural and human environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the well- being, health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of the County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on private land ownership and the use of these resources; and

**WHEREAS**, many of Weston County's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize private lands and their resources, including the forest products industry, livestock grazing, oil and gas exploration and production, mining and mineral development, recreational industries, hunting and other outdoor recreation]; and

**WHEREAS**, these industries are important components of the Wyoming economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social well being of Weston County and its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008 entitled Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Aboard (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); and

**WHEREAS**, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, President Biden directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior officials, to develop a program to conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which is called the "30 x 30" program; and

**WHEREAS**, under the 30 x 30 program, some 680 million acres of our Nation's lands would be set aside and permanently preserved in its natural state, preventing the productive use of these lands and their resources; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and water in the United States, and no such authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008; and

**WHEREAS**, placing private lands into permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many states, including Wyoming, and in particular rural counties such as Weston County whose citizens depend on private lands for their livelihoods; and

**WHEREAS**, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, will conflict with the plans, policies and programs of Weston County as expressed in Weston County Land Use Plan, adopted December 19, 1977 which obligates the federal government to coordinate its policy development with Weston County Commissioners and.; and

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 14008 at 216(a) directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other relevant federal agencies to "submit a report to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order recommending steps that the United States should take, working with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030."






**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Weston County, Wyoming, as follows:

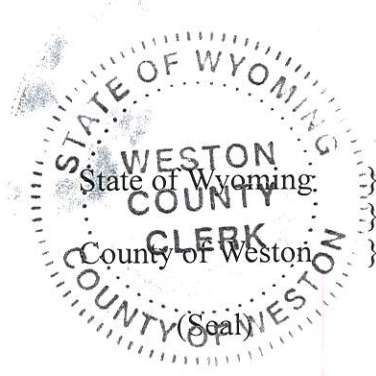
1. The Board opposes the 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving 30 percent of the Nation's lands in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of millions of acres of our lands.
2. The Board further opposes the designation of lands in Weston County for the purposes as expressed in the 30 x 30 program which may restrict public access to such lands and which may prevent the development of and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
3. The Board supports the continued private ownership of land in the County, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, and fiber.
4. The Board recognizes and supports the State of Wyoming's water rights system, including the doctrine of prior appropriation and other state laws and programs governing water rights and water use, and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within the County that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under Wyoming law.
5. The Board supports reasonable national, regional, and global greenhouse gas emissions policies and goals that are comprehensive, practical, cost-effective, and do not unnecessarily single out specific industries or activities, but opposes the use of global climate change as an excuse to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives.
6. The Board also maintains that any lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives should be acquired only from willing landowners and for the payment full and fair market value for all rights and interests acquired, and not through regulatory compulsion, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of Weston County, its businesses, and its citizens.
7. The Board shall send a copy of this Resolution to the Department of Interior and all other relevant Federal and State agencies; and


**DATED** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021 in Weston County, Wyoming

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN AND FOR WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING

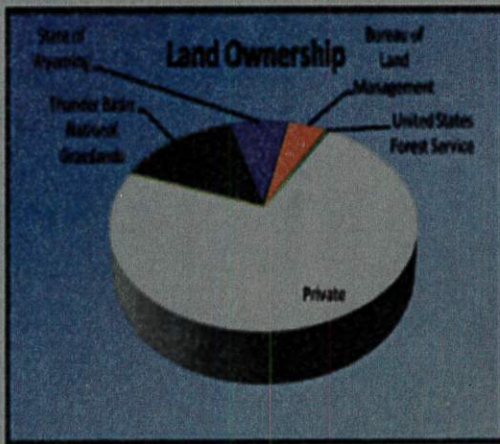
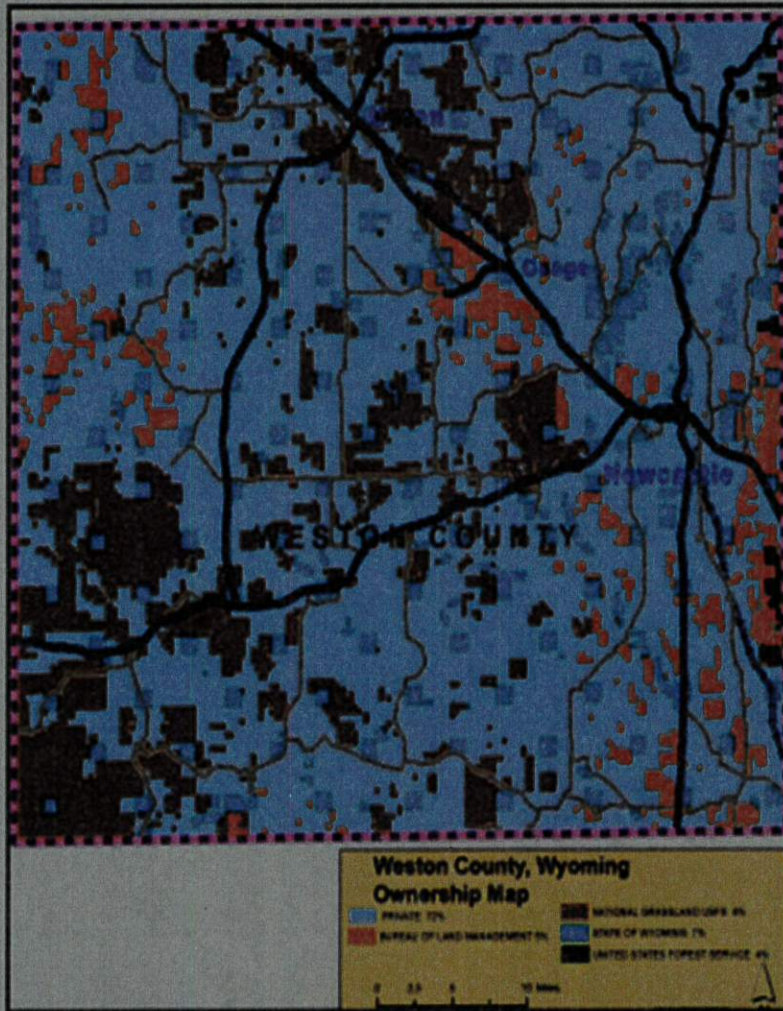
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman  
  
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 BECKY HADLOCK, WESTON COUNTY CLERK  
 My term of office expires January 2, 2023





Weston County	1,536,064 Total Acres
Private	1,111,497 Acres
Thunder Basin National Grasslands (USFS)	227,376 Acres
State of Wyoming	113,378 Acres
Bureau of Land Management	74,049 Acres
United States Forest Service (BFIN)	6,415 Acres
Cities/Towns	1,735 Acres
Surface Water	1,414 Acres