

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0009

Keeping public lands protected and decisions local.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Barlow, Anderson, Brennan, Cooper, Crago, Crum, Dockstader, Driskill, Gierau, Jones, Landen, Love, Nethercott, Olsen, Pappas, Rothfuss and Schuler and Representative(s) Byron, Campbell, E, Clouston, Connolly, Davis, Erickson, Filer, Geringer, Harshman, Jarvis, Larsen, L, Larson, JT, Lawley, Nicholas, Posey, Provenza, Sherwood, Storer, Thayer, Williams, Wylie and Yin

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress recognize the
2 protection of Wyoming's freedom of access to public lands, to
3 allow responsible development of resources, recreation,
4 agriculture, hunting, fishing, trapping, and conservation
5 under multiple-use frameworks, to protect local participation
6 in land management decisions, and to keep public lands
7 available to the people of Wyoming.

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9 WHEREAS, federal public lands are central to Wyoming's
10 heritage, economy, culture and way of life; and

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1 WHEREAS, while Congress and the executive branch have a duty
2 to manage these lands for multiple use and sustained yield in
3 the public interest, disposal of lands should not occur
4 without meaningful input from state and local governments and
5 affected communities; and

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7 WHEREAS, Wyoming residents access our federal public lands
8 more than any other state in the United States, with
9 approximately ninety-one percent (91%) of Wyoming's
10 population utilizing public lands for work, recreation and
11 subsistence; and

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13 WHEREAS, Wyoming's natural resource industries have driven
14 the state's economy for over a century, contributing over
15 eleven billion dollars (\$11,000,000,000.00) annually to the
16 gross state product (GSP), accounting for roughly between
17 twenty-five percent (25%) and thirty percent (30%) of total
18 GSP and employing nearly fifteen percent (15%) of the state's
19 workforce; and

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21 WHEREAS, Wyoming agriculture is foundational to the state and
22 nation, and continued and improved access to public lands for
23 grazing and agriculture use is essential; and

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2 WHEREAS, Wyoming's firearms heritage, which is rooted in
3 responsible ownership, hunting, sport shooting and self-
4 reliance, is strengthened through growing youth shooting
5 sports programs like those offered by 4-H, and supported by
6 the expanding firearms industries in Wyoming, which
7 contributes to education, workforce development, conservation
8 and the state's outdoor economy; and

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10 WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 39 of the Wyoming Constitution
11 affirms "the opportunity to fish, hunt, and trap wildlife is
12 a heritage that shall forever be preserved to the individual
13 citizens of the state" and is the foundation for a multiple
14 use framework which has led to the highest percentage of
15 hunters of any state and world-class wildlife resources which
16 support a hunting, fishing and tourism economy; and

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18 WHEREAS, although existing federal laws already provide a
19 process for land purchases, exchanges or limited disposals
20 when a clear and justified public purpose exists, including
21 Title 43 of the United States Code governing public lands,
22 and such processes have been used successfully in Wyoming,

1 those processes need to be more efficient and less costly for
2 both public and private landowners; and

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4 WHEREAS, recent proposals and public discussions have raised
5 concern regarding broad, quota-driven or large-scale sales of
6 federal public lands as a policy or revenue mechanism, without
7 sufficient local input or analysis; and

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9 WHEREAS, widespread disposal of public lands without clear
10 criteria shifts significant long-term costs for access,
11 wildfire response, infrastructure and law enforcement onto
12 state and local governments without dedicated funding; and

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14 WHEREAS, Wyoming's counties have adopted land-use and natural
15 resource plans through public processes tailored to their
16 unique needs, and actions that disregard these plans erode
17 local governance and the spirit of federalism; and

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19 WHEREAS, Wyoming has a long tradition of collaboration,
20 transparency and locally driven decision making rather than
21 top-down, command-and-control directives; and

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1 WHEREAS, agriculture, natural resource and recreation
2 industries in Wyoming are the best and proudest stewards of
3 public lands; and

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5 WHEREAS, if land disposal is determined to be necessary then
6 Wyoming community input must be a consideration because
7 meaningful improvements to land management are best achieved
8 through stakeholder engagement, streamlining existing
9 processes and community-led solutions grounded in local
10 knowledge with robust local public input and consultation
11 with state and local government.

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13 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE
14 LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

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16 **Section 1.** That the Wyoming Legislature opposes any
17 state or federal legislation or policy that promotes the broad
18 or indiscriminate sale or exchange of public lands.

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20 **Section 2.** That the state of Wyoming demands Congress
21 and federal agencies respect existing land management
22 frameworks, county land-use plans and the voices of local
23 communities most directly affected by federal land decisions,

1 especially when evaluating any proposed changes to federal
2 land management or the disposition of lands.

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4 **Section 3.** That the Wyoming Legislature supports
5 responsible, locally supported land exchanges, adjustments or
6 disposals under existing laws and procedures when they
7 demonstrably enhance public access, natural resource use or
8 community benefit.

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10 **Section 4.** That the Wyoming Legislature supports
11 adequately funding state and federal agencies and the
12 corresponding programs that exist so that the agencies can
13 efficiently and effectively review land purchases, exchanges
14 or limited disposals under the existing legal framework.

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16 **Section 5.** That the secretary of state transmit copies
17 of this resolution to the President of the United States, to
18 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
19 Representatives of the United States Congress and to the
20 Wyoming congressional delegation.

21

22 (END)