

**RESOLUTION
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OURAY COUNTY**

RE: Fee Demo Model

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for Ouray County, Colorado held at the Court House, Ouray, Colorado on the 26th day of July A.D., 2004.

When the following proceedings, among others, were had and done, to-wit:

WHEREAS, In 1996 Congress authorized the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program, which allows the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to charge visitors daily and yearly fees for recreation on publicly owned land under their management; and

WHEREAS, The Recreational Fee Demonstration Program has been implemented on select public lands in Colorado, and one might reasonably expect that the program will be extended to include many more public lands throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Recreational fees bear no relationship to the actual costs of recreation such as hiking, picnicking, observing wildlife, or scenic driving on state and county roads and public rights of way; and

WHEREAS, The concept of paying Recreational Fee Demonstration Program fees to use public lands is contrary to the idea that public lands belong to the American people and are places where everyone is granted access and is welcome, a concept that has been and should remain in place; and

WHEREAS, The original intent of the Recreational Fee Demonstration program was to improve the public lands, public facilities, and visitor services, but instead the program has served only to limit access to public lands and has garnered strong and widespread public criticism; and

WHEREAS, Public land agencies have been underfunded and Congress should restore funding to these agencies; and

WHEREAS, While the controversy over the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program continues, the issues that the fees were meant to resolve, such as poorly signed trails, bridges in disrepair, and the scarcity of picnic areas and campsites, of which many are in disrepair or vandalized, remain inadequately addressed; and

WHEREAS, The purchase of a pass to enter public lands under the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program demonstrates support for the program, but the limited means of expressing opposition to the program raises the concern that some citizens may be deterred from visiting and enjoying public lands in Ouray County and throughout Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Tourism is an important industry to Ouray County and recreational fees will have a negative impact on the local economy;

Resolution No. 2004-030

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners for Ouray County, Colorado strongly recommends that the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program be abolished and that any legislation to extend it or make it permanent, such as HR 3283 currently pending in the U.S. House of Representatives, be opposed by the Colorado Congressional Delegation. Further, the Commission urges Congress to restore the funding necessary to manage public land agencies (including operations and maintenance costs) within Colorado. Further, the Commission requests that no recreational fees be imposed on federal lands within Ouray County under the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program or any similar program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of Colorado, to the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service, the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the majority and minority leadership of the United States Senate, and to each member of the Colorado Congressional Delegation.

Adopted this **26th** day of **July**, 2004.

Voting in the affirmative: Commissioners Tom Hollenbeck, Don Batchelder and Bill Ferguson.

Absent: None.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OURAY, COLORADO

Tom Hollenbeck, Chairman

Michelle Nauer, County Clerk and Recorder
By: Linda Munson-Haley
Deputy Clerk of the Board

Don Batchelder, Vice Chairman

William Ferguson, Commissioner Member