

GARFIELD COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2017-02

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING GARFIELD COUNTY'S INTENT
TO IDENTIFY THE APPROPRIATE AREA NECESSARY FOR
THE GRAND STAIRCASE - ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT**

WHEREAS, the Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument (GSENM) was created in 1996 by Presidential Proclamation 6920 without any input or support from Kane or Garfield Counties, their citizens, their public officials, or the State of Utah; and

WHEREAS, the GSENM was created without consideration of roads, local economies, customs, culture and heritage; and

WHEREAS, GSENM has resulted in diminished grazing rights, energy and mineral rights, public road access, state trust land properties, and resource use and preservation; and

WHEREAS, for more than 20 years the GSENM has had a negative impact on the prosperity, development, economy, custom, culture, heritage, educational opportunities, health, and well-being of local communities; and

WHEREAS, establishment of GSENM has resulted in a 56% reduction in Escalante High School enrollment (from 151 to 67) since September, 1996; and

WHEREAS, establishment of GSENM has resulted in loss of business opportunity and out-migration of families, workers and jobs; and

WHEREAS, boundary adjustments are authorized by law and are needed to protect the prosperity, health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Kane and Garfield Counties; and

WHEREAS, boundary adjustments identified by Garfield and Kane Counties are essential to the protection of health, safety, welfare, prosperity, custom, culture, and commercial opportunities for their citizenry; and

WHEREAS, boundary adjustments identified by Garfield and Kane Counties are also essential to comply with the Antiquities Act, Presidential Proclamation 6920 and protection of objects of antiquity identified in the GSENM Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, boundary adjustments identified by Garfield and Kane Counties are necessary for optimizing multiple-use and sustained-yield including: 1) access to public lands, 2) commerce, 3) development, and protection of natural resources, 4) traditional recreational resource values, 5) traditional cultural and historical values, 6) agricultural livestock and forest products industries, and 7) other activities vital to the custom, culture and well-being of the area; and

WHEREAS, designation of lands as a monument has reduced the ability to actively manage for conservation and land health issues such as: vegetation treatments, erosion control, water management, grazing management, wildlife management activities, and invasive plant control.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GARFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, IN AND FOR GARFEILD COUNTY, STATE OF UTAH, AS FOLLOWS:

Garfield County, along with Kane County and the State of Utah, will consult with the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management and create mapping that indicates the minimum acreage necessary to protect the antiquities and objects identified in Presidential Proclamation 6920;

Garfield County urges the Utah State Legislature and the Utah Congressional delegation to develop and support legislative action that will reduce and modify GSENM boundaries to the minimum area necessary to protect antiquities and objects identified in Presidential Proclamation 6920.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Leland F. Pollock, Commission Chair

ATTEST:

Camille A. Moore
Garfield County Clerk/Auditor

Commissioner Pollock voted _____

Commissioner Tebbs voted _____

Commissioner Taylor voted _____