



Doña Ana Soil & Water Conservation District

2507 N. Telshor Blvd., Ste. 1 ■ Las Cruces, NM 88011 ■ 575/522-8775, ext. 116 ■ www.daswcd.org

RESOLUTION #2012-06-2

RESOLUTION OPPOSING ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Abstract: The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument (NGO, Commission, and Council) is the sixth attempt to create restrictive federal land designations within mixed ownership in Doña Ana County. The proposal is being driven by a Wilderness Society umbrella group with a dedicated campaign fund totaling over \$600K from a Seattle area donor against an unprotected citizenry who cannot match that onslaught. The effort stands to accelerate attrition of farmland by increased buffer restrictions and the stealth removal of 65,000 acres of federal lands slated for disposal; limit the management of the most dangerous watersheds in the County; embed the domestic water source of Hatch; force all residential growth further into farmland; limit the off basin management of E.coli sources; serve notice to 60 private tax parcel owners that their land will be acquired for the greater good; bury 80 sections of state trust land within the footprint; force the greatest cost alternatives to future watershed management alternatives; eliminate the best alternative for rail line diversion around the city of Las Cruces; eliminate best case scenarios of future energy transmission routing; force the highest cost conversion of Reclamation Dam certifications; elevate infrastructure costs thereof; inhibit the recovery of EBID owned floodwater; and threaten the customs and cultures that make the area so unique variously, but, most specifically, by the dampening of recruitment of young land stewards.

WHEREAS, the lands within DASWCD contain unique and significant customs and cultures, not a single citizen with duties, responsibilities, and investments on lands in the NGO/Commission/Council proposal was offered a place at the discussion table, and

WHEREAS, the protective measures extant regarding border security, flood control, and soil and water resources cannot be given up to an uncertain and undefined management plan process, and

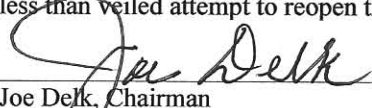
WHEREAS, the disclosure of the Hatch domestic water source being found within the scope of the plan which signifies wholly inadequate public scoping conclusions, and

WHEREAS, the extent of impact on the local beef cattle industry of 67.5% of all such cattle in the county along with 99.52% of all water sources thereof, and

WHEREAS, the disclosure of the intended taking of at least 60 parcels of private land, 80 sections of state trust land, and an undetermined summary of tax sources put at risk,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, on the 22 day of June, 2012, the Board of Supervisors of DASWCD does hereby stand in staunch opposition to the NGO/Commission/Council proposal that stands to decimate the History and Water Resource Values set forth in federal legislation as well as the local customs and culture precariously perched in the scope of this action, and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, this Board calls upon Senators Bingaman and Udall and Congressman Steve Pearce to intervene in this blatant attempt to rewrite the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976 with this less than veiled attempt to reopen the procedures for eventual Wilderness designation.


Joe Delk, Chairman

The resolution was passed upon motion of Steve Wilmeth and seconded by Joe Gonzalez
Roll call vote: MEG Y, JD Y, EPY Y, JS Y, DL , JG Y, SLW Y.

CC: Senators Bingaman and Udall, Congressman Pearce, Governor Susana Martinez, Andy Nuñez, Village of Hatch, DACFB, PFPOWH, NAFBO, DACCC, LCCC, MVC, AVC, NMCCD, DAFC, EBID, CBCD, HCC, HSWCD, LCC, DSWCD, CSWCD, SSWCD, SFSWCD, OSWCD, AZ/ NMCC, John Arthur Smith