

TOWN OF WINTER PARK

RESOLUTION NO. 2261
SERIES OF 2025

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PUBLIC LANDS

WHEREAS, Winter Park, Colorado located in Grand County, Colorado has easy access to 765,000 acres of public land, Winter Park is home to endless adventures and an unparalleled and unfiltered Colorado experience; and

WHEREAS, Winter Park's incorporated area is just under 17 miles with 13 square miles located within U.S. Forest Service boundary; and

WHEREAS Winter Park is situated at high elevation within the Fraser Valley, known for its diverse ecological zones and wildlife, surrounded by the Arapaho National Forest and three wilderness areas;

WHEREAS, Grand County, Colorado, is home to a significant portion of public lands, comprising approximately 75% of its total area, which are integral to the county's economy, environment, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, these public lands, managed by federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, provide essential resources, including grazing lands for agricultural operations, habitats for wildlife, and opportunities for outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Winter Park deeply value these public lands for their recreational, economic, cultural, and spiritual significance, recognizing that these lands are accessible to all, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or gender; and

WHEREAS, public lands contribute significantly to the local economy through activities such as mineral extraction, timber sales, ranching, tourism, and outdoor recreation, which contributes substantially to Colorado's economy; and

WHEREAS, federal management of these public lands ensures that resources are managed for the benefit of all Americans, addressing complex challenges such as wildfire management, watershed protection, and wildlife conservation; and

WHEREAS, the costs associated with managing these lands are a national responsibility, and federal involvement is crucial for the long-term health and sustainability of these resources; and

WHEREAS, there are ongoing attempts to transfer or sell off public lands, which are inconsistent with the values and interests of the residents of Winter Park and the broader Colorado

community; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) reveals that outdoor recreation in Colorado generated \$65.8 billion in economic output, contributed \$36.5 billion to the state's GDP, supported 404,000 jobs, and generated \$11.2 billion in tax revenue, demonstrating the profound economic significance of public lands and outdoor recreation to the state and to Winter Park.

WHEREAS, the 2023 SCORP data indicates that 96% of Coloradans engage in outdoor recreation, with 72% participating at least once a week, and that outdoor recreationists spent over \$52.1 billion on trips and equipment, underscoring the widespread and active use of public lands for recreational purposes.

WHEREAS, the outdoor recreation industry in Colorado contributed over \$17 billion to the state's economy in 2023, supporting 132,500 jobs, demonstrating the significant economic impact of public lands; and

WHEREAS, [the 2024 Conservation in the West Poll](#) found that 85 percent of Westerners support creating new national parks, national monuments, national wildlife refuges and Tribal protected areas to protect historic sites or areas for outdoor recreation.

WHEREAS, since the Antiquities Act was passed, 18 presidents - nine Democratic and nine Republican - have designated or expanded over 160 [national monuments across the country](#). And, according to a [2023 Conservation in the West Poll](#), 84% of Westerners - including 71% of Republicans - are more likely to support presidents who use their power to protect existing public lands.

WHEREAS, the Colorado General Assembly has recognized the importance of public lands through initiatives such as Public Lands Day and the memorialization of the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument; and

WHEREAS, Winter Park recognizes the importance of multiple uses of public lands, including but not limited to, grazing, energy development, and recreation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of Winter Park, Colorado hereby

1. Expresses its strong support for the continued federal management and stewardship of public lands within Winter Park.
2. Opposes any efforts to sell, transfer, or dispose of these public lands.
3. Encourages the Colorado Congressional Delegation to oppose any legislation that would negatively impact public lands and to support policies that ensure their long-term preservation and sustainable use.
4. Opposes any attempts to change the Antiquities Act or reduce the size of our national monuments.
5. Recognizes the multiple uses of public lands, and encourages a balanced approach to land management.

6. Urges federal land management agencies to continue their collaborative efforts with local communities, stakeholders, and other governmental entities to ensure effective and responsible management of public lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation, the Governor of Colorado, and the relevant federal land management agencies.

APPROVED AND PASSED this day of , 2025 by a vote of _____ to _____.

TOWN OF WINTER PARK

Nick Kutrumbos, Mayor

ATTEST:

Danielle Jardee, Town Clerk