



RESOLUTION 2017-04
OPPOSING THE 10 MILLION ACRE PROPOSED FEDERAL MINERAL WITHDRAWAL

Whereas, the Western States Land Commissioners Association (WSLCA) and its member states manage over 440 million acres of trust lands and minerals that are interspersed with federal lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and

Whereas, members of WSLCA have state constitutional mandates to manage millions of acres of lands and waterways for economic development, public education, conservation, recreation, and other public purposes provided by state law; and

Whereas, planning and management decisions made by the BLM have significant impacts on WSLCA members' ability to effectively manage trust assets for their constitutional beneficiaries; and

Whereas, the US Department of Interior in the name of protecting Greater Sage-grouse has segregated the minerals on over 10 million acres of federal land from economic mineral entry to meet the recommendation of the Greater Sage-grouse federal land use management plans; and

Whereas, state trust lands are commonly adjacent to and in 'checkerboard' proximity to withdrawn tracts of land in an unseverable relationship to the economic activity on these federal lands; and


Whereas, the removal of economic mining activity from these lands prevents future exploration and expansion on adjacent state trust lands, denying states from capturing the full economic potential and return for the intended beneficiaries that includes public education; and

Whereas, the governors of the withdrawal affected states have all opposed the Greater Sage-grouse federal land use management plans and subsequent withdrawal as unnecessary and harmful to economic development through either legal challenge or consistency review.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the WSLCA urges the Secretary of Interior to terminate the mineral segregation pursuant to authorities contained within the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and return the 10 million acres of public lands to multiple use purposes.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution shall be provided to the US Department of the Interior (BLM) and to appropriate members of Congress and, that member states of WSLCA shall make every effort to inform the Congressional delegations of their respective states regarding the urgency of this resolution.

Adopted this 11th day of January, 2017.


_____, President
Western States Land Commissioners
Association


_____, Secretary
Western States Land Commissioners
Association