

**Untitled**

Commission Meeting

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**Comments:**

Regarding:

Request for a Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 2-23-22.10A Opposing the Federal Government's 30x30 Land Preservation Goal. Sponsored by District 2, Commissioner Jay C. Bloc

Request for a Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 2-23-22.10B Opposing the State of New Mexico Executive Order Number 2021-052 Setting 30x30 Land Preservation Goal.

Dear Commissioners. On behalf of New Mexico Wild and our thousands of members statewide - including hundreds in Sandoval County - we would like you all to carefully consider Commissioner Block's two resolutions opposing the state and federal 30x30 initiatives.

First, it is important to note that the organization crating these resolutions - The Heritage Foundation - is a Texas based anti-conservation group funded by industry and special interests who have a history of exploiting New Mexico's precious natural resources. We believe New Mexicans should drive policy making decisions, not Texan special interest groups. The Heritage Foundation's sole intent is to spread doubt and misinformation about the 30x30 initiative.

30 x 30 is nothing more than a bold initiative. It has no binding power nor does it force any county to follow its objectives. The goal is to protect 30% of our most important and critical landscapes and watersheds across the nation. It does not mean that Sandoval County in any way is mandated – either by state or federal mandate - to permanently protect 30% of its lands in watersheds.

Permanent land and watershed conservation initiatives - special management areas, national monuments, national parks/preserves, wildlife management areas, refuges and wilderness designations - in Sandoval County and throughout New Mexico have been exhaustive, community driven, transparent and involve any and all stakeholders (including county commissioners) impacted. This is how land and watershed conservation initiatives work. If new landscapes and watersheds are being considered for permanent protection, this same process would also apply.

Land and watershed protection have many vital functions. They protect our precious cultural and ecological heirlooms. More importantly, most permanently protect or enhance precious hydrological assets - both surface waters and aquifers.

Sandoval County is home to one of the has Nations's most remarkable National Preserves - the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Bandelier National Monument is also within the county's borders. These remarkable, sustainable economic assets - to the tune of millions in annual tourist dollars - are but two examples of the future potential of possible land and watershed protection designations in Sandoval County.

To be clear, what these two resolutions state is that Sandoval County wants to close the door on a community driven conversation about cultural preservation, watershed protection, water quality protection and the remarkable, powerful and sustainable economic diversity that land and watershed conservation bring to Sandoval County.

Please vote no on both of these misguided resolutions.