

Resolution 2015-105

Boulder County Resolution Supporting the Endangered Species Act

WHEREAS, Boulder County is an environmentally-responsible county, and our stewardship honors our past while sustaining and improving the quality of life for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act, our nation's strongest and most important federal law protecting imperiled wildlife and plants, was passed by a bipartisan majority of Congress and signed into law by President Richard Nixon in 1973; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2015 national poll conducted by Tulchin Research, 90% of Americans support the Endangered Species Act and value it as a successful safety net for protecting wildlife, plants, and fish from extinction; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act has saved over 99% of the species designated for protection under the Act from extinction, including iconic species in Colorado such as the bald eagle and peregrine falcon; and

WHEREAS, Boulder County, through its land use policies, Parks and Open Space Department, and numerous other efforts, has worked for over 40 years to protect habitat for endangered species such as the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse and Colorado Butterfly Plant; and

WHEREAS, most recently, Boulder County has taken particular care to ensure that recovery efforts from the historic 2013 flood provide enhanced habitat for these and other species; and

WHEREAS, the threatened Ute Ladies' Tresses Orchid is found in only a handful of sites in the western United States, including Boulder County, and the federal protections afforded by the Endangered Species Act are helping safeguard this plant and the riparian and shallow wetland habitat on which it depends; and

WHEREAS, with 1.8 million Colorado residents and nonresidents participating in wildlife-oriented recreational activities across our state in 2011 and spending \$3 billion doing so, it is evident that the Endangered Species Act has played a critical role in preserving keystone species, protecting wildlife habitat and populations, and sustaining Colorado's local economies; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act contains multiple provisions that offer private landowners flexibility in complying with the Act, including provisions that allow landowners to work cooperatively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to minimize adverse impacts to listed species and avoid penalties or legal liability for their cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act provides individual citizens and local governments such as Boulder County with a framework for influencing public policy decisions in a time of warming temperatures, extreme flooding, and disastrous wildfires;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Boulder County Board of County Commissioners strongly supports the Endangered Species Act, and encourages Congress to continue its funding and enforcement and oppose any efforts to weaken or undermine the Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Boulder County's Congressional Delegation.

ADOPTED this 13th Day of October, 2015.



ATTEST:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BOULDER COUNTY**


Deb Gardner, Chair


Elise Jones, Vice Chair


Clerk to the Board


Cindy Domenech, Commissioner