

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HINSDALE COUNTY
LAKE CITY, COLORADO

RESOLUTION NO. 11
SERIES 2001

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING NO RECREATIONAL FEES BE IMPOSED ON
FEDERAL LANDS IN HINSDALE COUNTY UNDER THE RECREATIONAL FEE
DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, in 1996 Congress authorized the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program, which allows the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to charge visitors daily and yearly fees for recreation on publicly owned land under their management; and

WHEREAS, a Fee Demo program has been implemented in the Canyon Creek area of the Uncompahgre National Forest, including Yankee Boy Basin, Imogene Pass, and Mount Sneffels; and

WHEREAS, it is reasonable to expect that the Fee Demo program could be extended to public lands in Hinsdale County such as the Alpine Loop, the Uncompahgre, Weminuche, Powderhorn and other wilderness areas, Uncompahgre Peak and other high peaks, the Continental Divide and Colorado trails and other trail systems, American Basin and other popular recreation areas on BLM and USFS land; and

WHEREAS, recreational fees constitute double taxation which bears no relationship to the actual cost of recreation such as hiking, picnicking, observing wildlife or scenic driving on County maintained roads within the public lands; and

WHEREAS, while the original intent of the Fee Demo program was to generate revenue to address maintenance backlogs and enhance visitor services, it has instead limited public access and garnered strong public criticism; and

WHEREAS, while the controversy over Demo Fees continues, the core issue of providing adequate funding for public land maintenance remains unresolved; and

WHEREAS, since the purchase of a Fee Demo pass is counted by the USFS and BLM as support of the program, but no means of expressing opposition is provided except to avoid the fee area, we are concerned that some citizens may be deterred from visiting and enjoying the public lands in Hinsdale County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hinsdale County Board of Commissioners hereby requests that no recreational fees be imposed on Federal lands under the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program within the boundaries of Hinsdale County.

INTRODUCED by Commissioner LINDA MATTHEWS, seconded
by Commissioner CAROL DRAKE, and passed this 5TH
day of SEPTEMBER, 2001. (3-0)

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HINSDALE COUNTY, COLORADO