

**RESOLUTION NO. 2002-12**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO, CONCERNING  
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**, several "fee demo" programs have been implemented in Colorado, including Yankee Boy Basin, Vail Pass, the Gunnison Gorge, Mount Evans, and others; and

**WHEREAS**, it is reasonable to expect that the fee demo program may be considered for implementation on public land in La Plata County, Colorado, which contains numerous popular recreation areas on federally owned land managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management; and

**WHEREAS**, at a hearing held on February 11, 2002 before the Board of County Commissioners of La Plata County, Colorado over 75 people appeared to voice their opposition to the implementation of the fee demo program in La Plata County; and

**WHEREAS**, the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners strongly supports the concept of local control and respects the role of local elected officials, considering the opinions, needs and desires of their communities, to make sound policy decisions that affect their jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners believes it is important to share with our congressional delegation its opinion with respect to the fee demo program, which, if implemented in La Plata County, could have a significant impact on both tourism and the enjoyment of federal public lands by local residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LA PLATA COUNTY, COLORADO AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That the United States Congress is urged to fully fund the budgetary needs and requests of our public land agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and others, to ensure adequate resources to fulfill their missions and obligations to our nation's citizens who support these agencies with their tax dollars; and

- 2. That the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners hereby requests that no recreational fees be imposed on federal lands under the fee demo program within the boundaries of La Plata County. If a fee demo program is proposed for La Plata County, we request that it not be implemented without specific input and approval of the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners.
- 3. That the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners opposes any reauthorization of the fee demo program unless approval of local elected officials is required to be received prior to implementation of the fee demo program in a particular jurisdiction.
- 4. That, as an alternative to the fee demo program, we would urge federal agencies to seek partnerships with local civic groups, recreational organizations and others, in an attempt to address some of the pressing needs that exist on public lands due to their recreational use and popularity.
- 5. That the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners hereby pledges to continue to communicate, cooperate and collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management within La Plata County in their efforts to protect, yet keep accessible, our local natural resources and recreational areas.

ADOPTED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2002 in Durango, La Plata County, Colorado.



Attest:

Marge Jones  
 Clerk to the Board

LA PLATA COUNTY  
 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Fred W. Klatt, III  
 Fred W. Klatt, III, Chair

Frank "Josh" Joswick  
 Frank "Josh" Joswick, Vice Chair

Robert A. Lieb  
 Robert A. Lieb, Commissioner