

312

**RESOLUTION NO. 2003 - 59
PIMA COUNTY**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE
FEDERAL RECREATION FEE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress in 1996 authorized the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to levy fees under a Recreation Fee Demonstration Programs, charging U.S. taxpayers to enter public land under their management; and

WHEREAS, the notion of requiring citizens to pay fees to enter public lands is contrary to the concept embodied in our Constitution and laws since the founding of our country, that public lands belong to all U.S. citizens and thus are places where everyone is granted free access and is welcomed; and

WHEREAS, this Recreation Fee Demonstration Program reduces the access to public land of low-income citizens; and

WHEREAS, Congress' authorization of the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program was attached to other legislation and thus never was debated in either the Senate or the House of Representatives, and never was subject to public comment; and

WHEREAS, the program reduces visitation of public lands that are a strong tourist attraction – and tourism is important to many local economies, including the economy of Pima County; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program has been imposed for once popular local attractions – Mount Lemmon, Sabino Canyon and Madera Canyon – making it more difficult for low-income residents and tourists visiting them, and creating significant local opposition to the program, adding to voices of opposition across the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Pima County Board of Supervisors calls upon Congress to abolish the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program, and to restore land-management funding for the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service adequate to provide for those agencies' full needs without the charging of fees;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution be sent to Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, President George W. Bush, each member of the Arizona Congressional delegation, the majority and minority leaders of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, and to the U.S. departments of Agriculture and Interior.

313

Passed by the Board of Supervisors of Pima County, this 1st day of April 2003.

Sharon Bronson

Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors
4/1/03

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Sam Badashian

Clerk of the Board 4/1/03

K. Rich Jen 3/26/03

Deputy County Attorney