Escalante City
Resolution 2004-04

A RESOLUTION BY ESCALANTE CITY OPPOSING THE ENACTMENT OF USER FEES BY THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Whereas, the citizens of Escalante and other communities surrounding the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument have made every reasonable effort to comply with management mandates dictated by the Bureau of Land Management. These citizens have been forced to accept ever-evolving restrictions of the use and enjoyment of these public lands.

Whereas, these local individuals subsidize the operation of the monument by volunteering for search and rescue, ambulance, and fire protection services. We subsidize through taxation the cost of operating local Sheriffs departments as well as the Bureau of Land Management. We depend on access to lands within the monument for commerce, transportation, and recreation.

Whereas, the Bureau of Land Management has expressed intent in the establishment of user fees for the monument. While these fees may initially be limited in scope, they will inevitably be increased and expanded throughout the monument as a further means of restricting use of these public lands. User fees would also impose a disproportionate cost to local citizens in light of the contributions and sacrifices they already make.

Whereas, Escalante City has witnessed constant increases in the restrictions and fees mandated by similar fee programs within other National Parks, Monuments, and Recreation Areas nationwide. We find that such fees make visitation of these areas prohibitively costly to local residents. We call for Congress to end Recreational Fee Demonstration Programs for the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and United States Fisheries & WaterShed and any similar programs.

Now Therefore, Escalante City resolves to oppose the establishment of user fees within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. We also petition the management of the Monument to detail any such plans in a timely manner in open forums and to solicit public comment before any action is taken.

This resolution 2004-04 was adopted or rejected by a majority of the Escalante City Council of the City of Escalante, State of Utah, on a vote of 4 yes and 0 no, and 0 abstaining. The motion to accept this resolution was made by Council member Barney on this 2nd day of March, 2004.

(signed) Mayor Lenza Wilson

(attested) Vickie L. Schulkoski, City Recorder