Resolution No. 2001-15

Declaration of Opposition to the Northwest Forest Pass Program

WHEREAS, Congress authorized the U.S. Forest Service to charge visitors to the Siskiyou and Rogue River National Forests as well as other National Forests within the State of Oregon daily and yearly fees to obtain a permit to park on forest land and to issue citations for the failure to obtain such permits; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Forest Pass Program charges $5.00 per day or $30.00 per year for individuals to park their vehicles within the National Forest when they hike or camp in the forest; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Forest Pass constitutes double taxation which bears no relation to the actual cost of many types of passive recreation such as hiking, picnicking, or observing wildlife; and

WHEREAS, while the original intent of the Northwest Forest Pass Program was to generate revenue to maintain recreational facilities and enhance visitor services, it limits public access and garners strong criticism from forest users, and we are concerned that some citizens may be deterred from visiting and enjoying our National Forests; and

WHEREAS, while the controversy over the Northwest Forest Pass continues, the core issue of providing adequate funding for forest maintenance remains unresolved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Josephine County Board of Commissioners hereby requests an end to the Forest Service’s Northwest Forest Pass Program and supports unrestricted access to public lands.

DONE and DATED this 7th day of March, 2001.