

RESOLUTION NUMBER 76-2021- 10

Resolution - Executive Order 14008  
Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (30 x 30)

WHEREAS, Dundy County, Nebraska contains approximately 588,800 acres and of those acres,

- the State of Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds own forty-one (41) parcels of land equaling approximately 25,071 acres,
- the Nebraska Game and Parks owns approximately 216.45 acres of land along Rock Creek used both as a natural spring fed fish hatchery, which stalks multiple lakes throughout Nebraska, and one of Nebraska's State Lakes developed solely for public use of outdoor activities, camping and fishing, and
- the Upper Republican Natural Resources District, a political subdivision of Dundy County, State of Nebraska, owns approximately 6,480 acres known as the Rock Creed Augmentation Project which supplies Court Ordered water to the State of Kansas; and
- there are approximately 10,581 acres enrolled with United States Department of Agriculture in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and, of that 10,581 acres, approximately 4,190 acres are enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Acres in these programs constitute approximately 45 acres of pollinator habitats, 31 acres of rare and declining habitats, 104 acres of field windbreaks and the remaining acres are native grasses; and
- there are acres which are protected with perpetual conservation easements with approximately 86 acres of privately owned land currently contracted with Pheasants Forever, Corners for Wildlife Conservation in their 1-5 year plan, and

WHEREAS, lands which are designated as wilderness does not assure its preservation. Left in an undisturbed or natural state, these lands are highly

susceptible to wildfires, insect infestation and disease, all or which degrade the natural and human environment; and

WHEREAS, the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economic condition and culture of the County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on private land ownership and the use of these resources; and

WHEREAS, many of Dundy County's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize private lands and their resources, including farming, ranching, recreational industries, hunting and fishing;

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the Nebraska economy and are major contributors to the economic and social well-being of Dundy County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008 entitled Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); and

WHEREAS, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, President Biden directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior officials, to develop a program to conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which is called the "30x30" program; and

WHEREAS, under the 30 x 30 program, some 680 million acres of our Nation's lands would be set aside and permanently preserved in its natural state, preventing the productive use of these lands and their resources; and

WHEREAS, there is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and water in the United States, and no such authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008; and

WHEREAS, placing private lands into permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many states, including Nebraska, and in particular, rural counties such as Dundy County whose citizens depend on private lands for their livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, could conflict with the plans, policies and programs of Dundy County as expressed in Dundy Counties Comprehensive Plan, which includes various maps for environmental usage limitations as well as guidelines for zoning in Dundy County and, which could obligate the federal government to coordinate its policy development with Dundy County, and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14008 at 216(a) directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other relevant federal agencies to "submit a report to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order recommending steps that the United States should take, working with State, local, Tribal and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030".

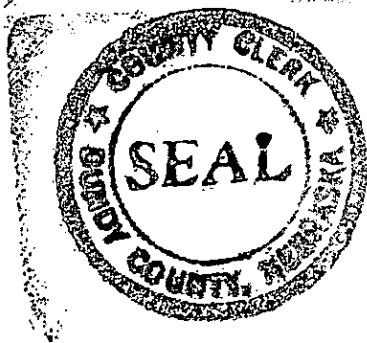
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Dundy County, Nebraska, as follows:

1. The Board opposes the 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving 30 percent of the Nation's lands in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of millions of acres of our lands.
2. The Board further opposes the designation of lands in Dundy County as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space or other conservation land, thereby restricting public access to such lands and preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
3. The Board supports the continued private ownership of land in the County, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food and fiber.
4. The Board recognizes and supports the State of Nebraska's water rights system, including the doctrine of Nebraska's Constitution Article XV-5 and other state laws and programs governing water rights and water use, and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within the County that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under Nebraska law.

5. The Board supports reasonable national, regional and global greenhouse gas emissions policies and goals that are comprehensive, practical, cost-effective and do not unnecessarily single out specific industries or activities, but oppose the use of global climate change as an excuse to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives.
  
6. The Board also maintains that any lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives should be acquired only from willing landowners and for the payment of full and fair market value for all rights and interests acquired, and not through regulatory compulsion, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy and culture of Dundy County, its businesses and its citizens.
  
7. The Board shall send a copy of this Resolution to the Department of Interior and all other relevant Federal and State agencies.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 21 day of June, 2021.

Scott Olson:	For <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Against <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstaining <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>
Richard Bartholomew	For <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Against <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstaining <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>
Jerry Fries	For <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Against <input type="checkbox"/>	Abstaining <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent <input type="checkbox"/>



Dundy County Board of Commissioners

Scott A. Olson  
 Scott Olson, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lory Lutz  
 Dundy County Clerk