



Resolution of the Graham County Board of County Commissioners

WHEREAS, the Graham County Board of Commissioners at its duly called special meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2015 do hereby resolve that there exists a great threat and danger yet again to the timber resources and accessibility in the County of Graham by present attempts to create further wilderness beyond the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock area in Graham County and to designate our streams / rivers as Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Wilderness Evaluation Process Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Graham County Board of Commissioners also desire that in the inventory of a newly proposed plan under Federal Regulation by the United States Forest Service any further wilderness be excluded from the plan and that the identifying and evaluating of lands in our county that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System be excluded and all rivers and streams be left as is; and

WHEREAS, the Graham County Board of Commissioners hereby express a desire to maintain and support our now ever decreasing timber industry due to many environmental restrictions already in place in our 68% Forest Service owned lands in our county and to retain its economical input into our county revenue and schools though limited they may be for our present and future generations to sustain our heritage; and,


WHEREAS, the Graham County Board of Commissioners believe that further expansion of wilderness areas or designations of our streams / rivers as Wild and Scenic Rivers in Graham County would have a substantial detrimental effect on the county's economy; and


WHEREAS, the Graham County Board of Commissioners would like the record to show that they are strongly opposed to the inventory of our lands for the use of identifying criteria for further wilderness expansion and for wild and scenic rivers; and,

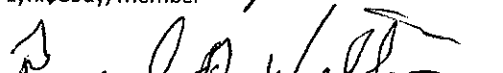
WHEREAS, the Graham County Board of Commissioners has sacrificed enough lands and water to wilderness use and any further expansion of the wilderness program on the forest lands and wild and scenic rivers of our county would further reduce employment, income, and school financial support in our county of which this Tier 1 County cannot survive without any longer and will resolve to put forth every reasonable means and encourage our people to support our efforts in stopping the expansion and creation of wilderness in any further areas of Graham County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Graham County Board of Commissioners do hereby stand as one body politic with the statement that we are strongly opposed to any additional wilderness areas or any designation of our streams/rivers as Wild and Scenic Rivers in Graham County.


Adopted this 17th day of November 2015.



Keith Eller, Chairman


Lynn Cody, Member


Raymond D. Williams, Member


Jacob Nelms, Vice-Chairman


Connie Orr, Member

ATTEST: 
Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board

