



**RICHARD ELÍAS**  
PIMA COUNTY SUPERVISOR  
DISTRICT 5

## PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

130 W. CONGRESS STREET, 11<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701-1317

TELEPHONE (520) 724-8126  
FAX (520) 884-1152  
E-MAIL: [district5@pima.gov](mailto:district5@pima.gov)  
WEBSITE: [www.district5.pima.gov](http://www.district5.pima.gov)



# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 2, 2015  
**TO:** Robin Brigode, Clerk of the Board  
**FROM:** Richard Elías, District Five Supervisor *R.E.*  
**REGARDING:** Item for the December 15, 2015 agenda

---

Please add the following to the December 15, 2015 agenda:

### Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 2015- \_\_\_\_ A resolution of the Pima County Board of Supervisors recognizing the value of federal public lands in Pima County to the county's heritage, economy and quality of life; opposing any effort to transfer those lands to the state of Arizona or to local governments.(District 5)

Thank you

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-\_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS IN PIMA  
COUNTY TO THE COUNTY'S HERITAGE, ECONOMY AND QUALITY OF  
LIFE; OPPOSING ANY EFFORT TO TRANSFER THOSE LANDS TO THE  
STATE OF ARIZONA OR TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

WHEREAS, a majority of the most stunning and beautiful natural landscapes in Pima County – deserts, mountains, rivers, lakes, streams, basins and plateaus – are federal public lands that all United States residents own, and

WHEREAS, federal public land under management of the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service constitutes 29 percent of the land in Pima County; and

WHEREAS, these public lands include large amounts of critical habitat for unique rare, threatened, and endangered wildlife and plant species, and

WHEREAS, these public lands contain thousands of historically or archaeologically significant and irreplaceable sites and remains, many of which have tremendous spiritual value to our region's Native American residents, and

WHEREAS, the adopted Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan guides the county's open space acquisition program, a goal of which is to leverage federal public land protection to "maximize the benefit of existing protected areas by increasing their size and (to) maintain a network of connected protected lands where native habitat and natural corridors remain," and

WHEREAS, Pima County residents and many thousands of visitors annually use these public lands to recreate – hiking, hunting, fishing, backpacking, wildlife watching, horseback riding, bicycling, and other outdoor activities, and

WHEREAS, the numerous scenic, historic, archaeological and recreational values of the public lands in Pima County are major attractions for tourism, an important facet of the local economy, and

WHEREAS, the local management of these public lands employs hundreds of county residents, whose wages are spent locally and who contribute in many positive ways to our community, and

WHEREAS, the funding needed to manage responsibly these federal public lands including thinning forests, fighting catastrophic wildfires, and maintaining roads and facilities, far exceeds the financial capabilities of the State of Arizona, and

WHEREAS, administration of grazing, mineral and fuels extraction, timber harvest, recreation and watershed management would lead to unprecedented growth and complexity of state government, and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the Arizona State Legislature established the Transfer of Federal Lands Study Committee to examine processes to transfer, manage and dispose of federal public lands within the State of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, this study committee is required to survey the boards of supervisors of Arizona counties in which at least fifteen percent of land area is under the management of federal agencies, and

WHEREAS, in 2012 Arizona voters defeated a ballot proposition to transfer federal public lands to the State of Arizona by a margin of two to one, and in Pima County voters rejected the proposition 71 percent to 29 percent,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby opposes any effort by the State of Arizona to claim, take over, litigate for, or purchase federal public lands except under provisions of applicable federal laws, allowing public participation in decision-making, and requiring rigorous scientific analysis of the ecological, historical, archaeological, and economic impacts of any such transfer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be provided to the Arizona State Legislature's Transfer of Federal Lands Study Committee for inclusion in its record.

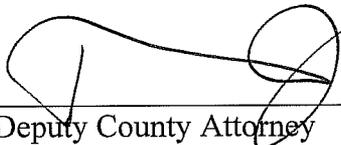
Passed by the Board of Supervisors of Pima County this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy County Attorney

**TOM WEAVER**