RESOLUTION 047-2016

IN OPPOSITION TO INCREASING WILDERNESS AREAS OF THE GILA and CIBOLA NATIONAL FORESTS DUE TO UNACCEPTABLE RISK OF CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE

WHEREAS, Counties are charged with the responsibility to preserve the health and safety of County residents, NMSA 1978, Section 4-37-1;

WHEREAS, Catron County has been devastated by numerous catastrophic wildfires caused by the creation and mismanagement of Wilderness Areas;

WHEREAS, the Wildfire Hazard Potential for well over half of the Quemado, Reserve, and Glenwood Gila Ranger Districts is high to very high, and the hazard potential for over half of the Magdalena and Mt. Taylor Cibola Ranger Districts is moderate to very high;

WHEREAS, increasing Wilderness Areas would further limit access to roads necessary to combat wildfires;

WHEREAS, within Wilderness Areas logging, grazing, tree salvage and the cleanup of excess dead vegetation is prohibited;

WHEREAS, this accumulation of fuels in the forest leads directly to catastrophic wildfires;

WHEREAS, such wildfires endanger homes, lives, and ravage swaths of forest and wildlife habitat;

WHEREAS, the destruction of the Gila and Cibola National Forests and the surrounding areas is detrimental to the economy of Catron County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Catron County opposes any increase in area designated as Wilderness due to the extreme and unreasonable fire danger such designations would pose to County residents, property, the economy, and the environment.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 11th day of February, 2016 in regular session of the Catron County Commission, at Reserve, Catron County, New Mexico.

ATTEST:  
M. Keith Riddle, Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CATRON COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

Glyn Griffin, Chairman

Anita A. Hand, Member

Van J. "Bucky" Allred, Member

Reserve, NM 87830