

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R25-0903.01 Nicole Denney x2297

SJR25-009

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Roberts and Catlin,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McCluskie and Taggart,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 25-009

101 **CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF COLORADO'S PUBLIC LANDS.**

1 WHEREAS, Coloradans have a deep love and affection for our
2 shared, national public lands and the innumerable benefits they provide;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Colorado and the American West contain a variety of
5 national public lands, including national parks, national forests, wildlife
6 refuges, national monuments, wilderness areas, and other public lands;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Coloradans' affection for public lands does not stop
9 at the state line and extends to protected areas from the Rocky Mountain
10 and Grand Teton National Parks to Dinosaur National Monument and
11 McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area, and the other millions of
12 acres of public lands in Colorado managed by the bureau of land

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 management that feature iconic working ranches, mountain bike trail
2 systems, world-class climbing, outstanding white water boating, and
3 incredible hunting and angling opportunities; and

4 WHEREAS, Our public lands reflect many of our most noble
5 democratic ideals because public lands offer valuable recreational,
6 economic, cultural, and spiritual opportunities to everyone, regardless of
7 one's socioeconomic status, race, or gender or whether one lives in an
8 urban or rural area; and

9 WHEREAS, Our public lands provide defining features of
10 Colorado and the foundation for our quality of life by supporting the
11 vitality of our communities, as well as representing Colorado's common
12 heritage: Fossils marking where dinosaurs roamed, ancient ruins and
13 petroglyphs dotting the canyons, and historic mining towns nestled in
14 steep-sided valleys; and

15 WHEREAS, Our national public lands feature an amazingly
16 diverse range of landscapes, from the snowcapped peaks of the Rocky
17 Mountains down to rushing rivers, from red rock canyons to sagebrush
18 seas, and tree-lined mountain valleys that are treasured by Coloradans and
19 the nation for outdoor recreation, such as hunting and angling; and

20 WHEREAS, Our public lands provide important wildlife habitats,
21 clean water, clean air, and natural amenities that contribute to Coloradans'
22 quality of life and Colorado's climate resiliency; and

23 WHEREAS, According to the 2024 Colorado College State of the
24 Rockies poll, 88% of Westerners visited national public lands in the
25 previous year, with one-fourth visiting more than 10 times, and 84% of
26 Coloradans support the creation of new national parks, national
27 monuments, and national wildlife refuges; and

28 WHEREAS, Our shared public lands have a substantial impact on
29 economic development and jobs through mineral extraction, timber sales,
30 ranching, tourism, and the outdoor recreation industry, which alone
31 contributed over \$17 billion to Colorado's economy in 2023, supporting
32 132,500 jobs and placing Colorado in the top 10 nationally for economic
33 activity around outdoor recreation; and

34 WHEREAS, In 2016, through Senate Bill 16-021, Colorado
35 created a state holiday to recognize and pay tribute to our public lands in

1 Public Lands Day on the third Saturday of each May; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2024, through House Joint Resolution 24-1012, the
3 Colorado legislature unanimously memorialized the U.S. Army's 10th
4 Mountain Division that trained in the valleys and rugged mountains of
5 Eagle and Summit Counties during World War II and expressed its
6 appreciation for the recently designated Camp Hale-Continental Divide
7 National Monument; and

8 WHEREAS, Misguided attempts to seize control of vast acreage
9 of national public lands from the American public and to force their
10 disposal through litigation and legislation, supported by a multimillion
11 dollar ad campaign, are inconsistent with the values and interests of
12 Coloradans; now, therefore,

13 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fifth General Assembly*
14 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

15 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly:

16 (1) Declare our support for keeping our national public lands in
17 public hands through the stewardship of the United States government
18 and the federal land management agencies of the national park service,
19 the United States forest service, the United States fish and wildlife
20 service, the bureau of reclamation, and the bureau of land management;

21 (2) Oppose efforts to sell, transfer, or dispose of our national
22 public lands; and

23 (3) Encourage Colorado's governor and attorney general and the
24 members of Colorado's Congressional Delegation to take such actions as
25 may be necessary to oppose future attempts to sell, transfer, or dispose of
26 our national public lands.

27 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
28 to Governor Jared Polis; United States Senators John Hickenlooper and
29 Michael Bennet; United States Representatives Diana DeGette, Joe
30 Neguse, Jeff Hurd, Lauren Boebert, Jeff Crank, Jason Crow, Brittany
31 Pettersen, and Gabe Evans; Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum; and
32 President Donald Trump.