

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF LEA
RESOLUTION NO. 23-APR-106R**

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE SLAUGHTER OF GILA WILDERNESS LIVESTOCK

WHEREAS, NMSA 1978, Section 4-37-1 provides that counties have the power "...to provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the health, promote the prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of any county or its inhabitants"; *and*

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service earlier this year issued its final decision to gun down from helicopter cattle in the Gila Wilderness, also known as the Gila National Forest, amid pressure from environmental groups that have raised unsubstantiated claims that the cattle are compromising water quality and habitat for other species; *and*

WHEREAS, federal regulations require that the Forest Service issue an impoundment order and the livestock be rounded up, with lethal action being a final step for those cattle that cannot be captured; *and*

WHEREAS, the Forest Service has failed to follow the removal procedures outlined in federal regulations; *and*

WHEREAS, the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico denied a request to enjoin the Forest Service from the mass slaughter of as many as one hundred fifty cattle in the Gila Wilderness, concluding that it would be contrary to the public interest to stop the mass slaughter of cattle; *and*

WHEREAS, despite the uncorroborated Forest Service's position that these cattle have morphed into an invasive, exotic species, these cattle are simply stray livestock that do no warrant being killed in this manner; *and*

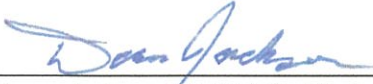
WHEREAS, it is estimated that sixty-five tons of dead animals will be left in the wilderness for months until the slaughtered animals decompose or are eaten by scavengers; *and*

WHEREAS, the slaughter of these cattle is unlawful, cruel, and environmentally harmful.

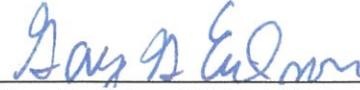
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Lea County that it stands in opposition to the cruel and inhumane aerial slaughter of cattle in the Gila Wilderness.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 13th day of April, 2023, by the Lea County Board of County Commissioners in an open meeting in Lovington, New Mexico.

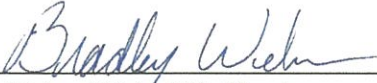
LEA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Dean Jackson (District 1), Chair
Voted: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Abstain



Gary G. Eidson (District 3), Vice Chair
Voted: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Abstain



Brad Weber (District 2), Member
Voted: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Abstain



Jonathan Sena (District 4), Member
Voted: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Abstain




Pat Sims (District 5), Member
Voted: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Abstain

ATTEST: Keith Manes
Lea County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL
SUFFICIENCY:

By: 
Cynthia Ramirez, Deputy Clerk


John W. Caldwell, County Attorney

