

**TOWN OF KEYSTONE
Summit County, Colorado**

RESOLUTION 2025-29

**A RESOLUTION OF TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF KEYSTONE, COLORADO,
AFFIRMING THE VALUE OF PUBLIC LAND AND OPPOSING THE SALE OF
FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS AS PROPOSED IN RECENT AND POTENTIAL FUTURE
FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

WHEREAS, the Town of Keystone (“Town”) is a home rule municipality governed by the Keystone Home Rule Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Keystone and its community members depend deeply on access to federal public lands for outdoor recreation, tourism, environmental health, and overall quality of life; and

WHEREAS, surrounding U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands—including Keystone Gulch, Tenderfoot Mountain, the Snake River corridor, and adjacent portions of the White River National Forest—provide essential open space, support wildlife, and define the character of the Keystone community; and

WHEREAS, the original March 2025 draft of a congressional budget-reconciliation bill would have made more than 258 million acres of federal public land eligible for sale and required the BLM and U.S. Forest Service to sell at least 3.1 million acres in 11 western states within five years, all with minimal state, local, or community input; and

WHEREAS, after the Senate parliamentarian ruled that language out of order and bipartisan opposition mounted, the provision’s sponsor, Senator Mike Lee of Utah, withdrew the mandatory-sale language on June 28, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lee and other lawmakers have publicly stated their intent to introduce a revised, less intrusive version that could still mandate a substantial sell-off of BLM land near western population centers—posing an ongoing threat to public lands in and around Summit County; and

WHEREAS, eligible or targeted parcels have previously and could in the future include lands adjacent to Keystone that residents and visitors rely upon for hiking, mountain biking, skiing, camping, hunting, and other traditional uses; and

WHEREAS, public-land sell-off proposals do not require that resulting development be affordable or address local workforce-housing needs, and they risk private projects incompatible with community values and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, broad bipartisan opposition continues among Colorado residents, conservation groups, recreation businesses, local governments, and members of Congress because forced divestiture would irreversibly diminish the public-land heritage that underpins the mountain-west economy and quality of life; and

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WHEREAS, the Town of Keystone is committed to safeguarding public lands for future generations, ensuring they remain publicly owned, properly managed, and accessible to all.

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Keystone, Colorado, that:

Section 1. Opposition to Public-Land Sales. The Town of Keystone strongly opposes any provision—whether in the current federal budget process or in future legislation—that mandates, incentivizes, or otherwise facilitates the sale or privatization of federal public lands in Colorado and across the West without significant local input and support.

Section 2. Support for Responsible Land Stewardship. The Town urges Congress to strengthen public-land stewardship, improve equitable recreational access, and support local economies through sustainable outdoor recreation and conservation, rather than through forced land sales.

Section 3. Call for Transparency and Local Input. The Town demands that any federal legislation affecting public lands include meaningful consultation with state, local, and/or Tribal governments; transparent criteria; and clear safeguards that protect long-standing public interests.

Section 4. Distribution of Resolution. The Town Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to:

- U.S. Senator Michael Bennet (Colorado)
- U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper (Colorado)
- U.S. Representative Joe Neguse (Colorado's 2nd Congressional District)
- The Governor of Colorado, Jared Polis
- The U.S. Secretary of the Interior
- The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture
- The Director of the Bureau of Land Management
- The Chief of the U.S. Forest Service
- The Summit County Board of Commissioners

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect upon its approval by the Town Council.

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ADOPTED by a vote of 7 in favor and 0 against, this 22nd day of July 2025.

Signed by:
By Kenneth D. Riley
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Kenneth D. Riley, Mayor

ATTEST:

Approved as to Form:

DocuSigned by:
By: Madeline Sielw
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Town Clerk

Signed by:
By: Jennifer Madsen
89751994A1B74EC...
Town Attorney