

RESOLUTION NUMBER 14-012

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF KETCHUM, BLAINE COUNTY, IDAHO, EXPRESSING TO THE PRESIDENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS QUALIFIED SUPPORT OF DESIGNATION OF THAT REGION OF CENTRAL IDAHO KNOWN GENERALLY AS THE BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS AND CONTAINING AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT SCIENTIFIC, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL VALUE, AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT UNDER THE AUTHORITY CONFERRED UPON THE PRESIDENT BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE AMERICAN ANTIQUITIES ACT OF 1906.

WHEREAS, the American Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 USC 431-433), Section 2, states in part: "That the President of the United States is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and may reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected..."; and

WHEREAS, the late Bethine Church wrote just before her passing: "Monument designation would bring a sense of completion to an effort started in 1972, when my husband, U.S. Senator Frank Church, achieved passage of legislation creating the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Wilderness Area...

"...the passing years have demonstrated that additional steps should be taken to address issues and problems unforeseen when the Sawtooth was established.... The Sawtooths, Boulder-White Clouds and East Fork Salmon River country contain some of Idaho's best remaining salmon, steelhead and bull trout habitat, all species that have been listed under the Endangered Species Act since the Sawtooth NRA was established. One of the best hopes we have of recovering these Idaho natives is proactive, comprehensive stewardship of these mountain watersheds. And national monument designation is the most promising avenue to achieve that"; and

WHEREAS, protecting the Boulder and White Cloud watersheds would include protection of the headwaters of four river systems and will help sustain a key irrigation source for farmers and a key water supply for many towns and cities, and will help ensure that people and wildlife can use the rivers for years to come in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the Boulder-White Clouds region encompasses diverse topography in large contiguous blocks providing a range of summer and winter critical habitat and migration corridors for: mammals such as the mountain goat, bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, moose, pronghorn antelope, wolverine, fisher, pine marten, pygmy rabbit, gray wolf, black bear, mountain lion and Canada lynx; birds such as sage grouse, Brewer's sparrow, goshawk, flammulated owl, great gray owl, boreal owl, three-toed woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, loon, Clark's nutcracker and numerous other migratory birds; and, plants such as white bark pine (including the oldest specimen in the U.S.), White Cloud milkvetch, Nuttall's

leptosiphon, northern sagewort and slender moonwort. Some of these plant and animal species are unique and endemic. Some are candidates or have been listed as Endangered, Threatened or Rare, since the Sawtooth NRA was established; and

WHEREAS, relics of numerous historical mining towns and sites exist in the Boulder and White Cloud landscape and by adding protection would preserve the physical history that is pinnacle to formation of present day towns and communities surrounding this area; and

WHEREAS, efforts to protect the wilderness features of the Boulder-White Clouds have been ongoing for over 40 years; and, the most recent, intense efforts aimed at protecting this region began in 1999, culminating in drafting of the Central Idaho Economic and Recreation Development Act (CIEDRA), which was introduced first by U.S. Representative Mike Simpson in the fall of 2004 in the 108th Congress and in seven other iterations subsequently in the 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th and 113th Congresses; and

WHEREAS, CIEDRA resulted from the long, sometimes arduous collaboration of a diverse and engaged cross-section of stakeholders including conservationists, sportsmen and women, outfitters and guides, ranchers, farmers, water users, hikers, climbers, mountain bikers, motorized off-road vehicle riders, horse riders, snowmobile riders, the communities of both Custer and Blaine Counties, the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to build widespread community support for creation of the Boulder-White Clouds National Monument, there have been and should continue to be public meetings and discussions among a variety of stakeholder groups, including collaboration between recreational users such as hikers and bikers, to identify and address land management concerns and develop the broadest possible agreement for the long-term protection of the Boulder-White Clouds; and

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Ketchum finds the primary purpose of creating the Boulder-White Clouds National Monument is lasting environmental protection of the outstanding wilderness characteristics and values of this extraordinary area. Recreational uses also constitute important secondary benefits; however, they should be carefully balanced and managed in ways that do not conflict with the primary purpose of scientific and ecological protection, such protection being a cornerstone of the City of Ketchum's core values; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the Blaine County Board of Commissioners endorses in general the map of the proposed National Monument--encompassing some 591,000 acres, including approximately 40% of the existing SNRA--developed in Spring 2014. Key features of this area include: Boulder-White Clouds Inventoried Roadless Area, Railroad Ridge IRA, Boulder Creek Wilderness Study Area, Jerry Peak West WSA, Jerry Peak WSA, Corral-Horse Basin WSA and over 100 mountain peaks reaching above 10,000 feet elevation. The monument would extend from the Boulder Mountain Front in the south, north along the East Fork Salmon to its mouth on the Salmon River;

from 4th of July Creek in the heart of the SNRA in the west, east past Castle Peak to the North Fork Big Lost and Jerry Peak; and

WHEREAS, City agrees with Blaine County that harm to these lands and waters would damage our region's culture, with demoralizing consequences for generations to come; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council for the City of Ketchum to commend to the President of the United States, declaration by public Proclamation of the above described region as the Boulder-White Clouds National Monument for the purpose of protecting in perpetuity its exceptional scientific, cultural and historical values; above all, its wilderness qualities; and,

FURTHERMORE, that this Proclamation, while likely recognizing the new National Monument as the dominant reservation, should not revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation or appropriation and, importantly, should honor and perpetuate the management framework and community relationships established and since developed within and around the Sawtooth National Recreation Area created in 1972 by the Congress of the United States through Public Law 92-400; and,


FURTHERMORE, that the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture--and any other involved government agency --initiate a public, open, accessible, inclusive and transparent process for development of a Management Plan for the new National Monument, as soon as possible and in no case later than three years after the Proclamation is issued; and

FURTHERMORE, that the Proclamation declare that the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management shall manage the National Monument cooperatively and soon establish, by some means, a unified management structure in order to achieve the best possible stewardship of its outstanding natural, ecological values and other attributes; and,

FURTHERMORE, that it is the City of Ketchum's sincere hope that the Congress of the United States shall see fit to appropriate funding on an ongoing basis for both the SNRA and the Boulder White-Clouds National Monument adequate for the high quality stewardship most certainly warranted by these magnificent, well-loved, irreplaceable landscapes.


PASSED by the City Council and **APPROVED** by the Mayor this 19th day of May 2014.

CITY OF KETCHUM, IDAHO



Nina Jonas,
Mayor

ATTEST:


Sandra E. Cady, CMC
City Treasurer/Clerk