

Resolution 2016-17

RESOLUTION DISAPPROVING THE LAND EXCHANGE BETWEEN BONANDER RANCHES, LLC. AND THE WYOMING BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS.

Whereas, the Wyoming Office of State Lands is considering the land exchange between Bonander Ranches, LLC, and the Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners. The proposal involves trading nearly 1,041 acres of state trust land in northern Albany County for 295 acres of Bonander's Moskee land in eastern Crook County, about 12 miles southeast of Sundance. The land in Albany County is located between Esterbrook Road to the north and Bear Creek Road to the south.

Whereas, if the land exchange occurs approximately 3,131 acres of adjacent land in Albany County would be isolated from public access, affect wildlife management and reduce public hunting opportunities. The parcels proposed for exchange in Albany County provide public access to over 6400 acres of National Forest Lands and 1,600 acres of State-owned lands and are important for public hunting opportunity, including elk, mule deer, black bear, mountain lion, and blue grouse. Further, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has noted that the parcels in Albany County are within the Laramie Peak Elk Herd Unit — Hunt Area 7 — and losing this land could inhibit management of the herd.

Whereas, the citizens of Albany County, Wyoming have voiced concerns and objections to the land exchange depriving its citizens and people from outside of the county of recreational opportunities — hunting, fishing, climbing, mountain biking, and trail running. Further, there is a concern for harm to wildlife populations.

Whereas, if the land exchange occurs, the land would generate an estimated \$6,384 in taxes for Albany County. However, the lost in revenue to Albany County from tourism would far exceed the estimated revenue in taxes to Albany County from the land exchange. Further, the tax revenue generated equates to \$.80 per acre for the loss of public access to 8,000 acres which does not seem to be worth the value compared to the value of access to public lands.

Whereas, the land exchange is contrary to the Albany County Comprehensive Plan which promotes maintaining and enhancing access to public lands and management of lands within Albany County.

Whereas, the County is requesting the Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners to amend the State rules to reflect that land exchanges should be handled within their respective counties unless a compelling reason exists for the County or State to extend past a County's boundaries.

NOW THEREFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING, RESOLVES:

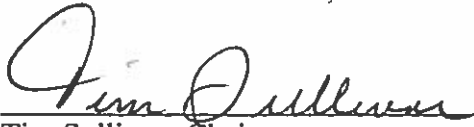
Section 1. That the foregoing recitals are incorporated in and made a part of this resolution by this reference.

Section 2. That, the Commissioners hereby disapprove the land exchange between Bonander Ranches, LLC and the Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners.

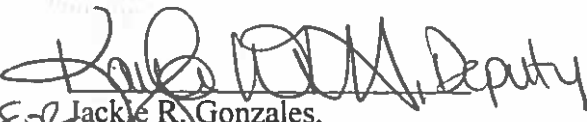
Section 3. That the Commissioners hereby request the Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners to amend the State rules to reflect that land exchanges should be handled within their respective counties unless a compelling reason exists for the County or State to extend past a County's boundaries.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 4th day of October, 2016.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING


Tim Sullivan, Chairperson

ATTEST:


For Jackie R. Gonzales,
Albany County Clerk