

W. 5. b.

**IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,  
LANE COUNTY, OREGON**

RESOLUTION ) **IN THE MATTER OF COMMEMORATING THE 40<sup>TH</sup>**  
04-9-1- ) **ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES**  
 ) **WILDERNESS ACT**  
 )

**WHEREAS**, September 3, 2004, will mark the 40th Anniversary of the enactment of the Wilderness Act (Public Law 88-577), which gave to the people of the United States an enduring resource of natural heritage as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System; and

**WHEREAS**, national leaders such as President Theodore Roosevelt and native Oregonians such as Judge John Breckenridge Waldo reveled in outdoor pursuits and sought diligently to preserve those opportunities for molding individual character, shaping a nation's destiny, striving for balance, and ensuring the wisest use of natural resources, to provide the greatest good for the greatest many; and

**WHEREAS**, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Wilderness Act, establishing a system of wilderness heritage to *"secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness"*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wilderness Act instituted an unambiguous national policy to recognize the natural heritage of the United States as a resource of value and to protect that wilderness for future generations to use and enjoy as previous and current generations have had the opportunity to do; and

**WHEREAS**, as a consequence of wide popular support, the people have a system of places wild and free for the permanent good of the people of Lane County; and

**WHEREAS**, the dedication of citizens of Lane County, including Congressman Jim Weaver, Fred Behm, John and Margaret Kemp, Jim Baker, Richard Noyes, Mariner Orum, Karl and Ruth Onthank, Holly Jones, Robin and Ken Lodewick, Nathan Williams, and Dave Stone has led to the protection of wildlands as a legacy for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1964 Wilderness Act designated two Wilderness Areas, the Diamond Peak Wilderness, then 35,440 acres, and the Three Sisters Wilderness, then 196,708 acres, which reside, in part, in Lane County; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1978 Endangered American Wilderness Act (Public Law 95-237), signed into law by President Jimmy Carter on February 24, 1978, noted that *"many areas of undeveloped national forest land possess and exhibit outstanding natural characteristics giving them high value as wilderness and will, if properly preserved, contribute as an enduring resource of wilderness for the benefit of the American people"*; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1978 Endangered American Wilderness Act added 45,400 acres to the Three Sisters Wilderness, including French Pete Creek, an area many thousands of Lane County residents fought for protecting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-328), signed into law on June 26, 1984, protected many special places in Lane County, from the Pacific Ocean to the Cascade Crest, *"in order to promote, perpetuate, and preserve the wilderness character of the lands, protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, preserve scenic and historic resources, and promote scientific research, primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, and inspiration for the benefit of all the American people, to a greater extent than is possible in the absence of wilderness designation"*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 designated three new Wilderness areas in Lane County: Cummins Creek Wilderness, 9173 acres, Rock Creek Wilderness, 7486 acres, and the Waldo Lake Wilderness, 39,200 acres, as well as added 15,700 acres to the Diamond Peak Wilderness and 38,100 acres to the Three Sisters Wilderness; and

**WHEREAS**, there are several wild areas in Lane County, such as Hardesty Mountain and Chucksney Mountain, that are not designated as Wilderness and are Wilderness suitable.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Lane County Board of Commissioners of Lane County

- (1) Commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act;
- (2) Recognize and applaud the extraordinary work of the individuals and organizations involved in building the National Wilderness Preservation System in Lane County;
- (3) Are grateful for the tremendous asset we pass along as a gift to future people of Lane County and the citizens of the United States; and
- 4) Encourage Oregon's congressional delegation to consider other wildlands in Lane County for future Wilderness designation.

**DATED** this \_\_\_ day of September 2004.

**APPROVED AS TO FORM**

Date 8/24/04 lane county

*Teresa J. Juhl*  
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

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Chair, Lane County Board of Commissioners