

## RESOLUTION 02-19

### SUPPORT CAMPBELL COUNTY POSITION ON THUNDER BASIN GRASSLAND PLAN

**WHEREAS**, the United States Forest Service ("Forest Service") issued a final Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management Plan ("FEIS") in July 2001 for the Thunder Basin National Grasslands and its revision decision (July 2002) and the associated National Grasslands in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the appeal by the entities set out below is to address and seek a verbal presentation of this administrative appeal to the United States Department of Agriculture Undersecretary as well as a full administrative review of this Forest Service land and resource Management Plan by the United States Department of Agriculture Undersecretary of the Thunder Basin National Grassland Plan and its revision decision (July 2002); and

**WHEREAS**, Campbell County has appealed the decision of the Thunder Basin National Grassland Plan and its revision decision (July 2002); and

**WHEREAS**, Campbell County believes the Forest Service has not adequately addressed the potential adverse environmental, health, and safety needs and economic impacts to the land and the people of the region if the current Thunder Basin National Grassland Plan and its revision decision (July 2002) is implemented as proposed; and

**WHEREAS**, Campbell County believes that the Thunder Basin National Grassland Plan and its revision decision (July 2002) will enhance the risk of wildfire as the Thunder Basin National Grassland Plan and its revision decision (July 2002) calls for increased fuel loads and limitations for access upon the national grasslands for fire suppression; and

**WHEREAS**, the Thunder Basin National Grassland Plan and its revision decision (July 2002) designates thousands of acres for the purpose of making large prairie dog complexes containing thousands of prairie dogs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Thunder Basin National Grassland Plan and its revision decision (July 2002) makes no definite provisions for any control of the prairie dog population and colonization of adjacent private property and makes no provision for the control of Sylvatic Plague and Bubonic Plague which thereby endangers the health and safety of the people in the region; and

**WHEREAS**, from 1960 through 2001, thirty-three (33) human cases of plague in the United States were positively linked with prairie dogs or their fleas and four (4) of those were fatal (Source: United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention); and

**WHEREAS**, Campbell County believes that large concentrated prairie dog populations are a threat to the region's prairie dog population, possible re-introduced Black Footed

Ferrets, and potentially to the health of adjacent wildlife, domestic animals, and human population; and

**WHEREAS**, Campbell County supports and requests through the appeal of the Thunder Basin Grassland Plan and its revision decision (July 2002) for an oral presentation of the appeal, and for full review of these documents by the Secretary of Agriculture.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Niobrara County Commissioners hereby support Campbell County's request for a verbal presentation of their administrative appeal before the United States Department of Agriculture.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Niobrara County Commissioners hereby supports Campbell County's request for support from Governor-Elect David Freudenthal, Senator Mike Enzi, Senator Craig Thomas, and Congresswoman Barbara Cubin.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December 2002.

**NIOBRARA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

*Donna I. Ruffing*  
Donna I. Ruffing, Chairman

*Richard L. James*  
Richard L. James

*Richard A. Ladwig*  
Richard A. Ladwig

ATTEST:

*Suzanne R. Sturman*  
Suzanne R. Sturman, Clerk

*By Marlene B. Sedek*  
*Deputy*