

## **City of Flagstaff**

### **A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

WHEREAS, the City of Flagstaff government exists to enhance the health, safety and quality of life for all residents and recognizes that a healthy planet is an integral part of the city's economy, society, and culture; and

WHEREAS, the City of Flagstaff has a responsibility to current residents and future generations to protect and conserve threatened and endangered species and their habitats; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act was passed in 1973 by a bi-partisan majority of Congress and signed into law by President Nixon in order to protect not only individual species, but the healthy landscapes upon which all life depends;

WHEREAS, a review of nationwide polling data going as far back as 1996 shows that bi-partisan support for the Endangered Species Act has stayed strong and stable over the years; a 2015 national poll found 90% of Americans support the Endangered Species Act and 68% of voters are more likely to support members of Congress who back environmental safeguards;

WHEREAS, protecting animal and plant species from extinction and habitat destruction benefits our own welfare by providing clean air, clean water, medicines, food pollination, buffer zones from severe weather, and a multitude of ecological services that provide economic benefits via diverse outdoor recreation opportunities, and more; and

WHEREAS, according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data, the Endangered Species Act has saved from extinction over 99% of the species designated for protection, putting hundreds of endangered species of animals and plants on the path to recovery; and

WHEREAS, Northern Arizona contains some of the best remaining habitat for species such as the Mexican gray wolf, Black-footed ferret, Mexican spotted owl, Northern leopard frog, California condor, Narrow-headed gartersnake, Razorback sucker and many more; and

WHEREAS, recovery of the Mexican gray wolf and other threatened and endangered species on Northern Arizona's vast mosaic of public lands will help to restore health and natural balance to those lands; and

WHEREAS, studies in areas where endangered wolves have been brought back have shown that tremendous economic benefits to local communities can be achieved through wolf related tourism; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act encourages and is compatible with programs that provide economic incentives to landowners engaged in effective endangered species and habitat conservation that can benefit both landowners and endangered species;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Flagstaff City Council strongly supports the Endangered Species Act and encourages the United States Congress to maintain its funding and enforcement while working to promote the restoration of threatened and endangered species in northern Arizona.