

# WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION



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## RESOLUTION 24-02

**Whereas**, the Western States Sheriffs' Association (WSSA) represents Sheriffs across 18 western states and has a dedicated mission of assisting Sheriffs with issues of federal and state legislative matters as well as working to keep the Office of Sheriff strong.

**Whereas**, Western Sheriffs have established strong working relationships with federal partners.

**Whereas**, it is the desire of Western Sheriffs to coordinate with our federal partners on matters of importance in an effort to preserve these valued relationships.

**Whereas**, Sheriffs across the west have been burdened with the constant weight of federal legislation and proposed rule changes affecting millions of acres of public land across the western United States.

**Whereas**, the seemingly unending efforts of congress, and the bureaucracies under the executive branch of the federal government, have created an increasingly fatiguing effort on the part of Americas' Western Sheriff to combat the incursion of federal regulation that is impacting the economic benefits to counties related to the nation's public lands.

**Whereas**, leadership within the Departments of Agriculture and Interior are fully aware of the negative impacts caused by the lack of required coordination with local governments including the County Sheriff. Efforts to curtail the use of public lands, expand authorities not granted by congress and impose rules and regulations is detrimental to local economies and can affect the safety of the public when accessing and using public lands.

## **Now Therefore, be it resolved on this 6th day of March 2024**

The membership of the Western States Sheriffs Association calls on the Secretaries of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Department of Interior as well as the Director of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to take an active role in directing subordinates to cease further efforts toward the following:

## **Assimilation**

We call on federal land management agencies to discontinue the practice of assimilating state traffic and criminal code through the federal regulation process.

## **United States Forest Service- 36 CFR Part 261 revisions**

We call on the United States Forest Service to review, acknowledge and incorporate the recommendations of the WSSA as it relates to proposed revisions to 36 CFR as published in the federal register RIN0596-AD57 described as law enforcement criminal prohibitions.

## **Bureau of Land Management- Temporary Closure and Restriction Orders.**

We call on the Bureau of Land Management to review, acknowledge and incorporate the recommendations of the WSSA as it relates to proposed revisions to 43 CFR as published in the federal register RIN1004-AE89 described as Temporary Closure and Restriction Orders.

## **Occupational Safety and Health Administration**

We call on OSHA to review and revise proposed language currently published in the federal register RIN1218-AC91 to eliminate language implementing restrictions and requirements on Sheriff Search and Rescue (SAR) teams. Furthermore, the WSSA recognizes that these proposed rule changes effectively usurp the authority of the Office of Sheriff, decimating the Sheriffs reliance on volunteer Search and Rescue personnel who affect the vast majority of SAR missions on the nation's public lands.

Finally, the WSSA calls on the aforementioned agencies and their leadership to engage in meaningful coordination with western sheriffs on these issues and all issues that affect the health safety and welfare of users of public lands.

Unanimously Approved by the membership of the Western States Sheriffs Association on the 6th day of March 2024 at its general business meeting in Reno Nevada



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Sheriff Corey Helton, Lea County NM  
President, WSSA



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Dave Brown, Sheriff (Ret.)  
Executive Director, WSSA