

**GRANT COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. R-22-33**

**DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN THE COUNTY OF GRANT FOR THE
BLACK FIRE EVENT**

WHEREAS, the Grant County Board of Commissioners met upon notice of a regular meeting, duly published, at the Grant County Administrative Offices, 1400 Highway 180 E., Silver City, New Mexico 88061, on June 23, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 4-38-1 (1884) the powers of a county as a body politic and corporate shall be exercised by a board of county commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, NMSA 1978, Section 4-37-1 (1975) recognizes that the County is granted "the same powers that are granted municipalities except for those powers that are inconsistent with statutory or constitutional limitations placed on counties. Included in this grant of powers to the counties are those powers necessary and proper to provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote the prosperity and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of any county or its inhabitants."; and,

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2022 the Black Fire, 24 miles north of Mimbres in the Gila National Forest, ignited and due to extreme drought conditions and high winds is currently burning out of control; and,

WHEREAS, the Black Fire has grown to 325,128 acres with 68% containment as of June 22, 2022, and is expected to continue to grow, due to continued low humidity and wind, creating significant hazards to the public and threats to private property, including but not limited to fire damage, smoke, flooding, earth movement, and mudslides; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority granted pursuant to the All Hazard Emergency Management Act, NSMA 1978, Section 12-10-1 *et seq.*, and particularly NMSA 1978, Section 12-10-5 (2007), the Board authorizes the use of all available resources of the County to assist in the County's response to this situation.

WHEREAS, all locally available public and private resources and forces available to mitigate and alleviate the damage are deemed insufficient to cope with the resulting situation, initiate repairs and meet restoration requirements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Grant County by virtue of the County's general power and the authority provided by the New Mexico Civil Emergency Preparedness Act (NMSA 1978, §§ 12-10-01 to 12-10-11) does hereby declare the Black fire event in the afore described areas the County of Grant to be an emergency/disaster for the purposes of exercising necessary emergency powers and expenditure of available resources, and requesting aid, assistance, and relief programs, and funds from the State of New Mexico and the Government of the United States.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Black Fire in the County of Grant is hereby declared to be a continuing disaster in consideration of the extent of damage and the unceasing severity of the dry conditions and high winds.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 23rd day of June, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, GRANT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

Chris M Ponce, Chairman

Harry Browne, Vice Chair

Alicia Edwards, Member

Javier Salas, Member

Gerald W. Billings, Jr., Member

[SEAL]

Attest:

Marisa Castrillo, Clerk

