

## RESOLUTION NO. 3236

### **A Resolution of the Red Lodge City Council in Support of Full Funding for National Parks, Battlefields and Monuments**

#### **Preamble**

The Red Lodge City Council urges Montana's congressional delegation to recognize the great natural, cultural and economic value Yellowstone and Glacier national parks and the area's other nationally significant places, such as its national battlefields and monuments, provide to the businesses and citizens of this state. Chronic under funding of the National Park System, which is well documented, puts our state's national parks, battlefields, monuments, and Montana employers and employees who depend on them at risk. We urge Montana's delegation to introduce, support, and pass legislation that appropriates full funding for the national parks—increases the National Park Service annual operating budget and eliminates the parks maintenance and road repair backlogs.

**WHEREAS**, The Red Lodge City Council has a great interest in ensuring the public, economic benefits, and general welfare of the Montana's national parks, battlefields, and monuments are maintained and protected for present and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, Yellowstone and Glacier national parks generate substantial economic benefit for Montana through employment, tax revenues, visitor spending, business expenditures to service visitors, National Park Service expenditures for park employee salaries, supplies, services, construction and maintenance programs, etc.; and

**WHEREAS**, a General Accountability Office (GAO) report released in 2006 documented National Park Service operating budgets, when adjusted for inflation, are further declining, the accommodation of newly mandated responsibilities including rising energy prices, homeland security requirements, congressionally approved pay raises and other mandates has resulted in substantial park operations cutbacks; and

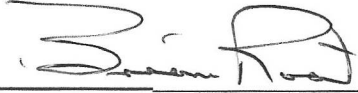
**WHEREAS**, the Congressional Research Service has identified between \$4.5 to \$9.7 billion backlog of overdue maintenance, road and other infrastructure repair resulting from decades of annual shortfalls in parks' operating budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, a series of business plan analyses conducted by business and policy experts in conjunction with the National Park Service indicate that the parks' annual operations budget shortfall is in excess of \$800 million, at least 32 percent short of what is needed to operate all national parks and an estimated 35 percent short of the amount needed to operate Yellowstone National Park; and

**WHEREAS**, chronic under funding puts our parks, battlefields, monuments and the communities, economies and businesses that rely upon them at risk and thwarts the

federal mandate for our national parks “to provide for the enjoyment of the [parks] in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that The Red Lodge City Council supports full funding of the National Park Service annual operations budgets and elimination of maintenance and road repair backlogs for all park, battlefield and monument units. We urge Montana’s congressional delegation to support and pass legislation that accomplishes these goals.

  
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Brian Roat, Mayor                      5-23-07  
Date

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk