

RESOLUTION NO. 21-004

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CANYON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DECLARING POCKET GOPHERS AS AGRICULTURAL PESTS**

The following resolution and order was considered and adopted by the Canyon County, Idaho, Board of County Commissioners (“Board”) on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Date and the second by Commissioner Van Beek, the Board resolves as follows:

**WHEREAS**, Idaho Code § 31-801 grants general powers and duties, subject to the restrictions of law, to the boards of county commissioners in their respective counties; and

**WHEREAS**, Idaho Code § 31-828 grants the Board authority “to do and perform all other acts . . . which may be necessary to the full discharge of the duties of the chief executive authority of the county government”; and

**WHEREAS**, Canyon County’s targeting of gophers as an “agricultural pest,” which has continued for decades, far preceded the enactment of Chapter 26, Title 25, Idaho Code; and

**WHEREAS**, Idaho Code § 25-2601 authorizes the Board to declare predatory animals, rodents, or other invertebrate organism to be agricultural pests and to take all steps that they may deem necessary to control such pests; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 26, Title 25, Idaho Code authorizes the Board to appropriate funds, purchase materials, and hire personnel to control pests; and

**WHEREAS**, “[a] single gopher may have a burrow system that extends as much as 800 feet, covers an acre of ground, and ranges from a few inches to several feet deep”<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, pocket gophers have consistently posed a threat to farmers in Canyon County, proliferate the amount and distribution of weeds by taking root parts and moving them to

<sup>1</sup> Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service–Wildlife Services, *Managing Pocket Gopher Damage*, <https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/library/wildlife-nature-environment/managing-pocket-gopher-damage/> (accessed December 28, 2020); see also Jason O'Brien, James Pease, and Kurt Johnson (June 2009), *Pocket Gophers: Damage Management*, Iowa State University – University Extension, <https://studylib.net/doc/10623439/managing-iowa-wildlife-pocket-gophers> (accessed December 28, 2020).



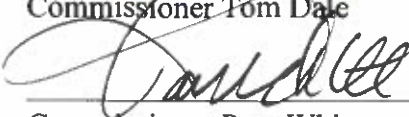
different locations, can cause forage losses of 10 to 50% in pastures and alfalfa fields,<sup>2</sup> and Canyon County has engaged in efforts to limit the pocket gopher population for decades; and

**NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD HEREBY DECLARES, RATIFIES, AND RESOLVES,** that pocket gophers in Canyon County are agricultural pests; and

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE BOARD** that the Canyon County Weed and Pest Control Department continue to take all steps deemed lawful, necessary, and within its budget to control pocket gophers; and

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE BOARD,** that this resolution shall be effective this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

- Motion Carried Unanimously
- Motion Carried/Split Vote Below
- Motion Defeated/Split Vote Below

	Yes	No	Did Not Vote
 _____ Commissioner Leslie Van Beek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Commissioner Tom Dale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Commissioner Pam White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ATTEST: CHRIS YAMAMOTO, CLERK

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

<sup>2</sup> D. Gunn, R. Hirnyck, G. Shewmaker, S. Takatori, L. Ellis (June 2011), *Meadow Voles and Pocket Gophers: Management in Lawns, Gardens, and Cropland*, Pacific Northwest Publication (University of Idaho, Oregon State University, Washington State University), <https://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/PNW/PNW0627.pdf>.