

1 A MEMORIAL

2 HONORING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT OF  
3 1964.

4  
5 WHEREAS, in 1964, the United States congress passed the  
6 Wilderness Act by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote, and this  
7 farsighted legislation was signed by President Lyndon B.  
8 Johnson on September 3, 1964; and

9 WHEREAS, the Wilderness Act created America's national  
10 wilderness preservation system of federal lands to be  
11 "administered for the use and enjoyment of the American  
12 people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for  
13 future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and will provide for  
14 the protection of these areas and the preservation of their  
15 wilderness character"; and

16 WHEREAS, the Wilderness Act made it the "policy of  
17 Congress to secure for the American people of present and  
18 future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of  
19 wilderness ... in order to assure that an increasing  
20 population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing  
21 mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within  
22 the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands  
23 designated for preservation and protection in their natural  
24 condition"; and

25 WHEREAS, wilderness, "in contrast with those areas where SM 70  
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1 man and his own works dominate the landscape, is recognized  
2 as Federal land retaining its primeval character and  
3 influence, which generally appears to have been affected  
4 primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's  
5 work substantially unnoticeable, and has outstanding  
6 opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type  
7 of recreation"; and

8 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama said in proclaiming  
9 September each year as "National Wilderness Month": "The  
10 mystery and wonder of wilderness is deeply rooted in our  
11 national character. For many of the first  
12 Americans – American Indians and Alaska Natives – the  
13 wilderness provided a source of sustenance and a foundation  
14 for their ways of life. Later, as explorers and the pioneers  
15 of a young country moved west, they found adventure and new  
16 beginnings in the landscapes of our Nation. From our  
17 earliest days, America's identity has been tied to the  
18 powerful waterfalls, soaring peaks, and vast plains of its  
19 land"; and

20 WHEREAS, inspired by Aldo Leopold and the Wilderness Act  
21 of 1964, New Mexico established the first designated  
22 wilderness area, the Gila wilderness, and now there are  
23 twenty-five congressionally designated wilderness areas that  
24 cover one hundred nine million five hundred eleven thousand  
25 nine hundred sixty-six acres, allowing past, present and

1 future New Mexicans to take special pride and additional  
2 pleasure in enjoying the benefits of the wilderness;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the significance of the national  
5 wilderness preservation system to America's cultural,  
6 scientific, historical, cultural and spiritual heritage be  
7 recognized; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the wilderness be recognized  
9 as a place where everyone can experience the spirit that has  
10 shaped America; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in this golden anniversary  
12 year of the Wilderness Act, all Americans be urged to visit  
13 and enjoy wilderness areas, to learn their history and to aid  
14 in the continuing protection of America's precious national  
15 treasures; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
17 transmitted to the New Mexico wilderness alliance. \_\_\_\_\_