

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE  
3 APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM FUNDING  
4 PLAN FOR FOREST AND WATERSHED RESTORATION WORK IN NEW MEXICO.

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6 WHEREAS, New Mexico needs a large-scale forest and  
7 watershed restoration program; and

8 WHEREAS, the urgency of the situation has been  
9 established in the New Mexico forest action plan, New Mexico  
10 forest and watershed health plan and the federal agency land  
11 and resource management plans; and

12 WHEREAS, scientists and stakeholders agree that the  
13 current level of active management on forest lands is  
14 insufficient to address the scope, scale and pace needed to  
15 restore these forests to a more resilient condition; and

16 WHEREAS, uncharacteristically large and intense  
17 wildfires and insect epidemics are affecting federal forest  
18 lands in acreages that dwarf the agencies' accomplishments in  
19 actively managing forests to improve their resiliency; and

20 WHEREAS, if New Mexico waits for a federal solution, it  
21 will be too late; and

22 WHEREAS, the state needs a coordinated, multi-partner  
23 approach that leverages each federal dollar and pools revenue  
24 from diverse state, local and Native American sources as well  
25 as businesses and the private sector; and

1           WHEREAS, the benefits of accelerated forest and  
2 watershed restoration are numerous, including secure water  
3 sources; resilient forests and habitat for wildlife; and  
4 hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities as well  
5 as New Mexico tourism and creation of jobs and economic  
6 development in rural communities; and

7           WHEREAS, the alternative, which would be to take no  
8 action, will result in damage to forests and water sources  
9 for generations to come;

10           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council  
12 be requested to direct the appropriate interim committee of  
13 the legislature to develop a long-term funding plan for  
14 federal, state, local and tribal agencies and diverse  
15 stakeholders to cooperate on forest and watershed restoration  
16 work in New Mexico; and

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee report its  
18 recommendations to the full legislature by the convening of  
19 the first session of the fifty-second legislature in January  
20 2015; and

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the state forester, the chair of the  
23 interstate stream commission, the state engineer, the  
24 New Mexico congressional delegation and the co-chairs  
25 of the New Mexico legislative council. \_\_\_\_\_