

HOUSE ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL 563

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52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

AN ACT

RELATING TO PARKS; CREATING THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL COMMISSION TO
RECOMMEND POLICIES TO ESTABLISH A RIO GRANDE TRAIL; CREATING
THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. ~~[NEW MATERIAL]~~ RIO GRANDE TRAIL COMMISSION
CREATED--MEMBERSHIP--FUND CREATED--ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT.--

A. The "Rio Grande trail commission" is created to
establish the Rio Grande trail to run the length of the state
from Colorado to Texas. The commission shall define and
recommend viable path routes of the Rio Grande Trail, mitigate
challenges related to its establishment and define and
recommend other features, facilities and enhancements needed on
the trail. The commission shall also make recommendations to

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 the legislature as needed and report annually to the governor
2 and the appropriate interim committees that deal with water and
3 natural resources and rural and economic development. The
4 commission shall consist of members appointed by the secretary
5 of energy, minerals and natural resources and shall include:

6 (1) the secretary of energy, minerals and
7 natural resources or the secretary's designee;

8 (2) the secretary of economic development or
9 the secretary's designee;

10 (3) the secretary of Indian affairs or the
11 secretary's designee;

12 (4) the secretary of transportation or the
13 secretary's designee;

14 (5) the secretary of tourism or the
15 secretary's designee;

16 (6) a representative from each of the
17 following:

18 (a) an organization with trail
19 management experience;

20 (b) the state parks division of the
21 energy, minerals and natural resources department;

22 (c) an organization that specializes in
23 river ecology and conservation; and

24 (d) an organization that specializes in
25 bird ecology and conservation; and

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1 (7) two members of the public interested in
2 the Rio Grande trail development.

3 B. The secretary shall appoint the chair from among
4 the members of the commission and invite federal entities to be
5 a part of the commission, including the:

- 6 (1) bureau of land management;
7 (2) bureau of reclamation;
8 (3) international boundary and water
9 commission;
10 (4) national park service;
11 (5) United States army corps of engineers;
12 (6) United States fish and wildlife service;
13 (7) United States forest service; and
14 (8) the offices of the New Mexico
15 congressional delegation.

16 C. The commission shall be administratively
17 attached to and staffed by the energy, minerals and natural
18 resources department. Members of the commission are entitled
19 to per diem and mileage as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage
20 Act and shall receive no other compensation, perquisite or
21 allowance, contingent upon money being available for this
22 purpose.

23 D. The commission shall:

- 24 (1) meet at least three times annually;
25 (2) define and recommend viable path routes of

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1 the Rio Grande trail that shall be contiguous where possible
2 and include only land that is expressly authorized by the owner
3 for inclusion in the Rio Grande trail;

4 (3) mitigate challenges related to the Rio
5 Grande trail's establishment, including facilitating
6 negotiations and discussions with landowners and jurisdictions
7 surrounding the Rio Grande;

8 (4) define and recommend other features,
9 facilities and enhancements needed on the Rio Grande trail;

10 (5) make recommendations to the legislature as
11 needed;

12 (6) prepare and report annually to the
13 governor and the appropriate interim legislative committees
14 related to water and natural resources and economic
15 development; and

16 (7) consult with representatives of the
17 following regarding issues within their jurisdiction in
18 development of the Rio Grande trail:

19 (a) each of the conservancy or
20 irrigation districts served by water in the Rio Grande;

21 (b) acequias adjoining the Rio Grande;

22 (c) counties adjoining the Rio Grande;

23 (d) land grants adjoining the Rio
24 Grande;

25 (e) municipalities adjoining the Rio

1 Grande; and

2 (f) Indian nations, tribes or pueblos
3 adjoining the Rio Grande.

4 E. The "Rio Grande trail fund" is created in the
5 state treasury. The fund consists of appropriations,
6 donations, grants to the fund, income from investment of the
7 fund and money otherwise accruing to the fund. Money in the
8 fund shall not revert to any other fund at the end of a fiscal
9 year. The energy, minerals and natural resources department
10 shall administer the fund, and money in the fund is
11 appropriated to the energy, minerals and natural resources
12 department to develop and establish the Rio Grande trail.
13 Money in the fund shall be disbursed on warrants signed by the
14 secretary of finance and administration pursuant to vouchers
15 signed by the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
16 resources or the secretary's authorized representative.

17 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
18 provisions of this act is July 1, 2015.

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