1	SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 12
2	46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	Carlos R. Cisneros
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7	FOR THE
8	WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
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10	A JOINT MEMORIAL
11	REQUESTING THE STATE FORESTER TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A NEW
12	MEXICO FOREST HEALTH PLAN THAT EMULATES THE BEST MANAGEMENT
13	PRACTICES CURRENTLY IN USE ON THE MESCALERO APACHE INDIAN
14	RESERVATI ON.
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16	WHEREAS, New Mexico's forests are in an unhealthy state
17	due to an overdensity of wildfire fuels, including invasive
18	species and noxious weeds, resulting from years of aggressive
19	fire prevention and having removed fire from the natural scheme
20	of nature; and
21	WHEREAS, the drought conditions that the state has
22	experienced over the last several years have exacerbated this
23	unhealthy condition; and
24	WHEREAS, as a result of the overdensity of wildfire fuel
25	and the anticipated long-lasting drought situation,
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biodiversity within the state's ecosystems continues to
decrease and conditions for continued insect outbreaks remain
likely, thus adding to the possibility of catastrophic
wildfires occurring within the state; and

WHEREAS, catastrophic fires present a threat to the lives and property of New Mexico residents; and

WHEREAS, catastrophic wildfires could have devastating impacts on the state's critical watersheds and negative impacts on domestic water supply for New Mexico residents; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the forest health problem is in terms of millions of acres and involves different jurisdictional boundaries and authorities; and

WHEREAS, the cost to remedy and maintain sound forest ecosystems within the state will be tremendous and all available land management resources must be used both efficiently and effectively; and

WHEREAS, the Mescalero Apache Tribe's forest management operations, working in concert with the bureau of Indian affairs, Mescalero agency, have become nationally known for the effective and efficient way in which they have addressed many of the forest health issues mentioned within;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the forestry division of the energy, minerals and natural resources department be requested to facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide . 148725.1

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forest health plan that will effectively bring together the
resources of federal agencies, tribal, state and local
governments and private landowners to address the issues
described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, with the anticipated completion date for the New Mexico forest health plan being October 2004, that the state forester send the plan to the New Mexico legislature by December 2004; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources, the state forester, the New Mexico congressional delegation and the chief of the United States forest service.

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<u>underscored mterial = new</u> [bracketed mterial] = delete . 148725. 1