

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

**SENATE MEMORIAL 17**

**47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Steve Komadina**

**A MEMORIAL**

**RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CORRALES BOSQUE PRESERVE AND  
THE WILD BIRDS AND OTHER NATIVE WILDLIFE IN ITS ENVIRONS AND  
OPPOSING THE USE OF THE PRESERVE FOR A PROPOSED REGIONAL  
BICYCLE TRAIL.**

**WHEREAS, the village of Corrales was incorporated in 1971;  
and**

**WHEREAS, the village governing body has long recognized  
the importance of the riverside forest known as the Corrales  
bosque and has continuously demonstrated its commitment to  
stewardship of the bosque as evidenced by such acts as:**

- A. commissioning a study of bosque wildlife in  
1974;**
- B. annexing the Corrales bosque area to the village  
in 1975;**

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = del etc

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

- 1 C. establishing a Corrales bosque task force in  
2 1978;
- 3 D. declaring the Corrales bosque a protected area  
4 in 1978;
- 5 E. banning unauthorized vehicular use of the bosque  
6 in 1979;
- 7 F. establishing the Corrales bosque advisory  
8 commission in 1980;
- 9 G. designating the Corrales bosque as a wildlife  
10 preserve in 1980;
- 11 H. entering into a bosque ecosystem preservation  
12 contract with the nature conservancy in 1984;
- 13 I. dedicating the Corrales bosque preserve in 1986;
- 14 J. calling for careful regulation of the preserve  
15 in the Corrales comprehensive plan in 1988;
- 16 K. fencing and gating the preserve in several  
17 steps, ending in 1990;
- 18 L. enacting the Corrales bosque preserve ordinance  
19 to regulate public use of the preserve and define its  
20 boundaries in 1990;
- 21 M. adopting Resolution 90-38 declaring policy for  
22 the preserve and requesting restriction of the use of motorized  
23 watercraft on the Rio Grande in 1990;
- 24 N. adopting Resolution 91-17 declaring policy for  
25 the preserve and opposing highway corridors cutting through the

. 156477. 1

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 preserve and the village of Corrales in 1991; and

2 0. calling for careful regulation of the preserve  
3 in the Corrales comprehensive plan in 1996; and

4 WHEREAS, in recognition of this record of stewardship, the  
5 Corrales bosque advisory commission received the environmental  
6 protection agency's 1993 environmental excellence award for  
7 wetlands and riparian protection; and

8 WHEREAS, the nature conservancy of New Mexico, in  
9 recognition of the natural value of the Corrales bosque  
10 preserve, established the Corrales bosque endowment, funded by  
11 monetary gifts from Corralenos and supporters of the preserve  
12 from elsewhere, to provide annual stipends to the village in  
13 support of the preserve; and

14 WHEREAS, since the incorporation of the village of  
15 Corrales, hundreds of citizen volunteers have contributed time  
16 and money toward maintaining the Corrales bosque through such  
17 work as trash removal, fire patrolling, firefighting, gate and  
18 fence installation and repair, sign preparation and  
19 installation, service on village commissions and by other  
20 beneficial contributions too numerous to mention; and

21 WHEREAS, the Corrales bosque preserve contains an  
22 extensive Rio Grande valley cottonwood forest, consisting of  
23 stands of trees of a variety of ages, some having been  
24 established during floods as early as the first decade of the  
25 twentieth century, and the Corrales bosque preserve is one of

. 156477. 1

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 the best examples of this ecosystem in the middle Rio Grande  
2 valley; and

3 WHEREAS, the Corrales bosque preserve is unique in  
4 supporting an unusual wealth of native shrubs and other plants,  
5 making the preserve the richest riparian plant community in the  
6 middle Rio Grande valley; and

7 WHEREAS, the above-described richness has led to the  
8 development of a corresponding richness and abundance of  
9 wildlife species, such that recent surveys have revealed that  
10 the Corrales bosque preserve supports significantly greater  
11 numbers of nesting birds than adjacent bosques, such as the  
12 Albuquerque bosque, that have received high human impact, and  
13 some species, such as the Cooper's hawk, nest in the preserve  
14 in higher densities than at any other site in the United  
15 States; and

16 WHEREAS, the high biological value of the Corrales bosque  
17 preserve has been made possible, in part, by the wise actions  
18 and policies of Corralenos over the last thirty-five years,  
19 including their policy of limiting and controlling human access  
20 and behavior; and

21 WHEREAS, the recently announced plan to implement a  
22 regional bicycle trail from Belen to Bernalillo may include the  
23 proposal to establish a paved trail through the Corrales bosque  
24 preserve; and

25 WHEREAS, the construction of such a trail within the

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 preserve would almost certainly destroy the fragile balance  
2 that now exists between the bosque ecosystem and its human  
3 guests, leading to the elimination of those features of  
4 biological richness and diversity that have earned the preserve  
5 regional acclaim;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
7 OF NEW MEXICO that the governing body of the village of  
8 Corrales be supported in its firm opposition to the  
9 construction of the proposed regional bicycle trail within the  
10 Corrales bosque preserve; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body of the  
12 village of Corrales be supported in its efforts to seek an  
13 alternate route for the proposed regional bicycle trail in the  
14 Corrales sector of the middle Rio Grande valley; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the mayor of the village of  
16 Corrales be urged to represent the village government in this  
17 matter and to take such steps as may be necessary to prevent  
18 the use of the Corrales bosque preserve for the proposed  
19 regional bicycle trail; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to the mayor and the governing body of the village  
22 of Corrales.