

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TO ESTABLISH THE RIO GRANDE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA.

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande del Norte connects New Mexico from its northern to its southern boundary, connecting people and communities along its natural course; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande corridor from the Colorado border in Taos county to the village of Velarde in Rio Arriba county is defined by the unique geologic formations of the Rio Grande gorge created by volcanic basalt flows from the volcanoes of the Taos plateau and the underlying Rio Grande rift; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande migratory flyway represents one of the great natural migratory routes in the world, and this flyway provides for some of the greatest diversity of flora and fauna in the American southwest; and

WHEREAS, the volcanic basalt cliffs of the Rio Grande gorge provide for regionally high densities of nesting eagles, hawks, falcons and owls, and these naturally occurring nesting areas can constitute a Rio Grande bird-of-prey area similar to the Snake river bird-of-prey area in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande wild and scenic corridor provides a unique game fishing habitat of national renown and is currently being managed by the bureau of land management

and the New Mexico department of game and fish as special fishing waters; and

WHEREAS, the San Antonio mountain and the Punche valley provide a unique winter habitat for large migratory elk herds from both Colorado and New Mexico that is managed by the bureau of land management and the New Mexico department of game and fish; and

WHEREAS, the Taos plateau and the Punche valley are jointly managed as a pronghorn antelope area by the bureau of land management and the New Mexico department of game and fish; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Rio Grande wildlife conservation area will provide future generations of New Mexicans continued enjoyment of the recreational opportunities to hunt, fish, observe wildlife and experience solitude;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the bureau of land management be requested to establish the Rio Grande wildlife conservation area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico department of game and fish and the New Mexico state land office cooperate with the bureau of land management under multiple-use and sustained yield management to maintain the highest wildlife values possible within the area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

transmitted to the state director of the bureau of land management, the secretary of the interior, the New Mexico congressional delegation, the director of the department of game and fish and the state commissioner of public lands.