

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 51

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

A JOINT MEMORIAL

RECOMMENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RIO GRANDE WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION AREA.

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande 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 provides  
for some of the greatest diversity of flora and fauna in the  
American southwest; and

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1           WHEREAS, the volcanic basalt cliffs of the Rio Grande  
2 gorge provide for regionally high densities of nesting eagles,  
3 hawks, falcons and owls, and their natural nesting areas  
4 constitute a Rio Grande bird of prey area similar to that along  
5 the Snake river in Idaho; and

6           WHEREAS, the Rio Grande wild and scenic corridor provides  
7 a unique fishing habitat of national renown and is currently  
8 being managed by the bureau of land management and the  
9 department of game and fish as special fishing waters; and

10           WHEREAS, San Antonio mountain and the Punche valley  
11 provide unique winter habitats for large migratory elk herds  
12 from both Colorado and New Mexico that are managed by the  
13 bureau of land management and the department of game and fish;  
14 and

15           WHEREAS, the Taos plateau and the Punche valley are  
16 currently being jointly managed as a pronghorn antelope area by  
17 the bureau of land management and the department of game and  
18 fish; and

19           WHEREAS, the establishment of the Rio Grande wildlife  
20 conservation area will provide for future generations of New  
21 Mexicans continuing opportunities to enjoy recreation,  
22 including hunting, fishing, observing wildlife and experiencing  
23 solitude;

24           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Rio Grande wildlife and

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1 conservation area be established; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and  
3 fish and all related state agencies work cooperatively with the  
4 bureau of land management under multiple use and sustained  
5 yield management to maintain the highest wildlife values  
6 possible within the Rio Grande wildlife conservation area; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature encourage the  
8 state land office to work cooperatively with the bureau of land  
9 management and department of game and fish to consolidate this  
10 unique habitat to better facilitate cooperative management  
11 goals for all New Mexicans; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the governor, the director of the department of  
14 game and fish, the commissioner of public lands and the state  
15 director of the bureau of land management.