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HOUSE MEMORIAL 37

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

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

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

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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 these naturally occurring nesting
4 areas can constitute a Rio Grande bird-of-prey area similar to
5 the Snake river bird-of-prey area in Idaho; and

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

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

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

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

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
25 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the bureau of

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1 land management be requested to establish the Rio Grande
2 wildlife conservation area; and

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

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the state director of the bureau of land
10 management, the secretary of the interior, the New Mexico
11 congressional delegation, the director of the department of
12 game and fish and the state commissioner of public lands.

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