

SENATE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 50

**50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012**

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING COOPERATION AND SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH TO ESTABLISH A CONSERVATION AND  
CULTURE ACADEMY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL CULTURES,  
WATERSHEDS AND ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, the culture and traditions of New Mexico are  
founded upon and dependent on the viability and health of the  
land and its precious watersheds; and

WHEREAS, the natural resources that sustain us, and that  
sustained our forebears, we hold in trust for our children and  
their children; and

WHEREAS, healthy, intact tracts of publicly accessible  
land where our children can practice traditional land uses such  
as agriculture, hunting and fishing are essential to the  
continuation of traditional culture; and

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1           WHEREAS, the resources of New Mexico, both physical and  
2 cultural, must have champions in the next generation to ensure  
3 that they do not perish; and

4           WHEREAS, beneficial use of renewable wildlife resources is  
5 essential to the long-term economy of New Mexico; and

6           WHEREAS, fishing is an integral part of the fabric of New  
7 Mexico's economy and heritage, and fishing is an important  
8 cultural and traditional activity for all New Mexicans; and

9           WHEREAS, the New Mexico conservation and culture academy  
10 will be established as a four- to six-week summer session for  
11 students in the tenth through twelfth grades and will be held  
12 on working ranches that have ongoing Rio Grande cutthroat trout  
13 restoration initiatives; and

14           WHEREAS, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout, being the New  
15 Mexico state fish and a candidate for an endangered species  
16 listing, is a classic western icon that has survived in the  
17 face of extreme adversity and is a barometer of watershed  
18 health; and

19           WHEREAS, like the cultures that rely on the same  
20 watersheds it still inhabits, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout is  
21 a symbol of diversity and uniqueness in an increasingly  
22 homogeneous world; and

23           WHEREAS, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout's habitat is an  
24 ideal watershed-centric laboratory that fuses traditional  
25 cultural land use, watershed/native species protection and

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1 habitat restoration into one easy-to-manage conservation and  
2 culture curriculum package; and

3 WHEREAS, the best and brightest conservation-minded kids  
4 from all corners of the state will be recruited for the  
5 academy, acting as the conservation and culture ambassadors  
6 from their respective regions;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of game and fish, the  
9 United States fish and wildlife service, the United States  
10 forest service, the bureau of land management, the Valles  
11 Caldera national preserve, the New Mexico agricultural  
12 community, the state council of trout unlimited and  
13 representatives of traditional cultures in New Mexico be  
14 requested to develop curricula and establish a conservation and  
15 culture academy for the preservation of traditional cultures,  
16 watersheds and activities; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and  
18 fish study the feasibility of creating and managing a dedicated  
19 youth conservation and culture education fund; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to the regional forester of the United States  
22 forest service, the state director of the United States fish  
23 and wildlife service, the bureau of land management, the New  
24 Mexico state council of trout unlimited and the director of the  
25 department of game and fish.

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