

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IN  
3 WASHINGTON, D.C., THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
4 AND THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO WORK TOWARD  
5 THE RESTORATION OF FUNDING FOR THE REMAINING LAND ACQUISITION  
6 FOR THE VALLE DE ORO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

7  
8 WHEREAS, in September 2011, United States Secretary of  
9 the Interior Ken Salazar announced approval to establish a  
10 five-hundred-seventy-acre site along the Rio Grande in  
11 Bernalillo county as the southwest's first urban wildlife  
12 refuge; and

13 WHEREAS, the refuge was established due to the  
14 partnership efforts of many in the community who recognized  
15 the importance of having a wildlife refuge in an urban  
16 setting; and

17 WHEREAS, in 2012, the refuge was officially established  
18 as the five-hundred-fifty-ninth refuge in the national  
19 wildlife refuge system and named the Valle de Oro national  
20 wildlife refuge; and

21 WHEREAS, the refuge will conserve bosque habitat, water  
22 rights and open space and provide extensive educational  
23 opportunities for people of all ages throughout central New  
24 Mexico; and

25 WHEREAS, the Valle de Oro national wildlife refuge is

1 located within a half-hour drive to nearly one-half of New  
2 Mexico's population, making it an attractive and accessible  
3 destination; and

4 WHEREAS, the refuge also provides opportunities for  
5 hiking and biking along the planned Rio Grande trail and a  
6 connection to the city of Albuquerque's existing Paseo del  
7 Bosque trail; and

8 WHEREAS, according to a report by the United States fish  
9 and wildlife service, *Banking on Nature*, visits to national  
10 wildlife refuges assist economic development in local  
11 communities by supporting private sector jobs, producing  
12 employment income and generating tax revenue at the local,  
13 state and federal levels; and

14 WHEREAS, the report found that approximately  
15 eighty-seven percent of refuge visitors travel from outside  
16 the local area, and local expenditures include food, lodging  
17 and transportation; and

18 WHEREAS, the refuge provides a critical habitat for  
19 migratory birds and other wildlife; and

20 WHEREAS, once fully restored, visitors to the refuge  
21 will be able to see waterfowl, small mammals and neotropical  
22 migrant birds, including the endangered southwestern willow  
23 flycatcher; and

24 WHEREAS, the refuge was officially named a project under  
25 President Obama's America's great outdoors initiative and

1 fulfills the goals of the initiative to work with community  
2 partners to establish a twenty-first century conservation  
3 ethic and reconnect people, especially young people, to the  
4 natural world; and

5 WHEREAS, a partnership composed of the state of New  
6 Mexico, Bernalillo county, the Albuquerque metropolitan  
7 arroyo flood control authority, the United States fish and  
8 wildlife service, the bureau of reclamation and the national  
9 fish and wildlife foundation previously worked together to  
10 secure the first four hundred eighty-eight acres of property;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, funding to complete the acquisition of the  
13 remaining eighty-two acres was proposed in President Obama's  
14 fiscal year 2014 budget; and

15 WHEREAS, the property will remain under threat of  
16 development if not acquired now; and

17 WHEREAS, until the remaining land acquisition is  
18 completed, the refuge is only open to the public on a very  
19 restricted basis and its management, restoration and  
20 public-use plans are on hold;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional  
23 delegation, the United States department of the interior and  
24 the United States fish and wildlife service be requested to  
25 work toward restoring funding and acquiring the remaining

1 property for the Valle de Oro national wildlife refuge; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the secretary of the interior, the director of  
4 the United States fish and wildlife service and the members  
5 of the New Mexico congressional delegation. \_\_\_\_\_

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