

June 16, 2014

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Ex-Officio Member
Pablo R. Rael
Village of Los Ranchos
Board Trustee

Executive Director
Mark S. Sanchez

Website
www.abcwua.org

Representative George Dodge
Senator Phil A. Griego
New Mexico State Legislature
Water and Natural Resources Interim Committee

Dear Chairman Dodge and Vice-Chairman Griego:

The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority is pleased to offer our support of developing a long-term state funding plan for forest and watershed restoration during the interim, as called for in 2014 Senate Memorial 95 and House Memorial 80.

The overgrown condition of New Mexico's forested watersheds is a statewide concern. Wildfires that burn 40,000 acres in a day have happened in 2011 and 2012 in both northern and southern New Mexico. The forested mountains where most of our snow falls and is stored until spring runoff, may be irreparably damaged. We recognize the existing efforts of federal and state agencies to restore fire-prone watersheds as their funding permits. Yet Senate and House Memorials make clear that current efforts are not sufficient given the scope of the problem, the threat of damage to critical water sources, and the cost of each large fire.

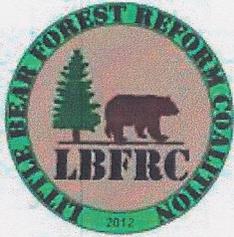
Large scale forested watershed restoration can be a triple win for New Mexico, providing water security, sustainable forest products and jobs in rural areas. A transition period is needed while the pace and scale of restoration is accelerated, and there is a clearly a role for the State of New Mexico to catalyze the transition. Waiting for others to act will only result in more acres burned.

We applaud the Water and Natural Resources Committee for taking the lead to ensure that resources are leveraged to achieve a scale of watershed restoration that can make a difference for New Mexico. This letter is to offer our support in the interim as you move forward with a funding plan.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Sanchez
Executive Director



Little Bear Forest Reform Coalition
102 Buena Vista Dr • Alto, NM 88312
Phone: 575-937-0720 • Email: info@lbfc.org
Website: www.lbfc.org

June 18, 2014

Representative George Dodge
Senator Phil A. Griego
New Mexico Legislature
Water and Natural Resources Interim Committee

Dear Chairman Dodge and Vice-Chairman Griego:

The Little Bear Forest Reform Coalition wants to offer our support of developing a long-term state funding plan for forest and watershed restoration during the interim, as called for in 2014 Senate Memorial 95 and House Memorial 80.

The overgrown condition of New Mexico's forested watersheds is a statewide concern. Wildfires that burn 40,000 acres in a day have happened in 2011 and 2012 in both northern and southern New Mexico. The forested mountains where most of our snow falls and is stored until spring runoff, may be irreparably damaged. We recognize the existing efforts of federal and state agencies to restore fire-prone watersheds as their funding permits. Yet Senate and House Memorials make clear that current efforts are not sufficient given the scope of the problem, the threat of damage to critical water sources, and the cost of each large fire.

Large scale forested watershed restoration can be a triple win for New Mexico, providing water security, sustainable forest products and jobs in rural areas. A transition period is needed while the pace and scale of restoration is accelerated, and there is a clearly a role for the State of New Mexico to catalyze the transition. Waiting for others to act will only result in more acres burned.

We applaud the Water and Natural Resources Committee for taking the lead to ensure that resources are leveraged to achieve a scale of watershed restoration that can make a difference for New Mexico. This letter is to offer our support in the interim as you move forward with a funding plan.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of the Little Bear Forest Reform Coalition)

Mary Ann Russ, Chairperson

Revin Stoker, Vice Chair Person

Mary Weaver, Past Chairperson

Cindy Lynch, Treasurer

Roger Allen, Secretary

Leroy Cockrell, Director

Coda Omness, Director

Mary Ann Russ
Revin Stoker
Mary Weaver
Cindy Lynch
Roger Allen
Leroy Cockrell
Coda Omness

June 18, 2014



Representative George Dodge
Senator Phil A. Griego
New Mexico Legislature
Water and Natural Resources Interim Committee

Dear Chairman Dodge and Vice-Chairman Griego:

Dekker/Perich/Sabatini, Ltd. is pleased to offer our support of developing a long-term state funding plan for forest and watershed restoration during the interim, as called for in 2014 Senate Memorial 95 and House Memorial 80.

The overgrown condition of New Mexico's forested watersheds is a statewide concern and threatens the eco-system that provides water resources used for agriculture and urban water users alike. Wildfires that burn 40,000 acres in a day have happened in 2011 and 2012 in both northern and southern New Mexico. The forested mountains where most of our snow falls and is stored until spring runoff, may be irreparably damaged by these extreme fire events. We recognize the existing efforts of federal and state agencies to restore fire-prone watersheds as their funding permits. Yet Senate and House Memorials make clear that current efforts are not sufficient given the scope of the problem, the threat of damage to critical water sources, and the cost of each large fire.

Large scale forested watershed restoration can be a triple win for New Mexico, providing water security, sustainable forest products and in creating jobs in rural communities/areas of New Mexico. A transition period is needed while the pace and scale of restoration is accelerated, and there is a clearly a role for the State of New Mexico to catalyze the transition. Waiting for others to act will only result in more acres burned.

We applaud the Water and Natural Resources Committee for taking the lead to ensure that resources are leveraged to achieve a scale of watershed restoration that can make a difference for New Mexico. This letter is to offer our support in the interim as you move forward with a funding plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dale Dekker', written over a white background.

Dale Dekker, AIA
Principal



(505) 821-6646
cdunk@ecengr.com

Craig Hoover, P.E.
Chairman/President
Bohannon Huston, Inc.
7500 Jefferson NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 798-7835

Harold Trujillo, P.E.
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Acequia de la Isla
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Charles M. Easterling, P.E.
Past Chairman
Easterling Consultants, LLC
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Albuquerque, NM. 87114
(505) 821-6646

Dick Smith
Sec-Treasurer
Chaves County Flood Commission
3730 Spring River Rd.
Roswell, NM 88203
(575) 623-9722

Paul Dugie, P.E.
Board Member
Dona Ana County Flood Commission
845 N. Motel Blvd.
Las Cruces, NM 88007
(575) 647-7256

Zack Libbin
Board Member
Elephant Butte Irrigation District
530 S. Melendres St.
Las Cruces, NM 88001
(575) 524-8003

Jerry Lovato, P.E.
Board Member
Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo
Flood Control Authority
2600 Prospect, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110
(505) 884-2215

June 20, 2014

Representative George Dodge
Senator Phil A. Griego
New Mexico Legislature
Water and Natural Resources Interim Committee

Dear Chairman Dodge and Vice-Chairman Griego:

The New Mexico Watershed and Dam Owners Coalition (NMWDOC) is pleased to offer our support for developing a long-term state funding plan for forest and watershed restoration as called for in 2014 Senate Memorial 95 and House Memorial 80.

The NMWDOC membership includes dam owners, watershed managers, acequia associations, irrigation districts, flood control agencies and many conservation districts from throughout the state. Many of our members have had to deal directly with the dam safety, watershed yield, and water quality impacts resulting from the overgrown condition of New Mexico's forested watersheds and the resulting fires, debris flows, and disruption of irrigation and municipal water supplies.

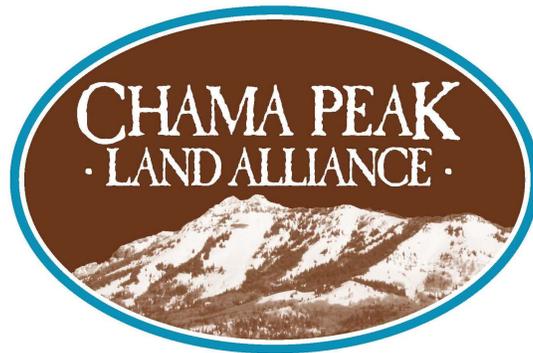
If we do not ramp up the scale of our forest thinning and restoration programs, the forested mountains where most of our snow falls and is stored until spring runoff may be irreparably damaged. We recognize the existing efforts of federal and state agencies to restore fire-prone watersheds as their funding permits. Yet both the Senate and House Memorials make it clear that current efforts are not sufficient given the scope of the problem, the threat of damage to critical water sources, and the cost of each large fire.

Large scale forested watershed restoration can be a quadruple win for New Mexico, providing water security, sustainable forest products, avoiding dam safety issues (as we currently have at Bonito Reservoir), and creating jobs in rural areas. A transition period is needed while the pace and scale of restoration is accelerated, and there is a clearly a role for the State of New Mexico to catalyze the transition. Waiting for others to act will only result in more acres burned.

We applaud the Water and Natural Resources Committee for taking the lead to ensure that resources are leveraged to achieve a scale of watershed restoration that can make a difference for New Mexico. This letter is to offer our support in the interim as you move forward with a funding plan.

Sincerely,

Craig Hoover, PE
New Mexico Watershed and Dam Owners Coalition



RESPONSIBLE LAND STEWARDSHIP

June 24, 2014

Representative George Dodge
Senator Phil A. Griego
New Mexico Legislature
Water and Natural Resources Interim Committee

Dear Chairman Dodge and Vice-Chairman Griego:

The Chama Peak Land Alliance (Alliance) is in support of developing a long-term state funding plan for forest and watershed restoration as called for in 2014 Senate Memorial 95 and House Memorial 80. The Alliance is an association of conservation-minded landowners working collaboratively to practice and promote ecologically and economically sound land management in the southern San Juan Mountains of Colorado and northern New Mexico.

The current biological system in New Mexico is under stress due to fire risks, climatic changes, and forest conditions. Recently completed Forest Resource Assessments by Colorado and New Mexico State Forestry Agencies reveal that these forests are at risk for high to very high severity wildfires, and are experiencing significant mortality from insects and disease, and diminished resilience to drought and climate change. These threats put at-risk the forests, watersheds, wildlife, and recreational values and illustrate the need for proactive management.

The Alliance in collaboration with several entities is actively looking for a financially viable and substantial outlet markets for various types of wood biomass that could be generated from proposed and necessary forest treatments as currently being discussed in the New Mexico legislature.

The Chama region holds considerable potential for sustainable, commercial scale wood biomass utilization. A supply base of more than one million acres is located within 50 driving miles of Chama. Year-round harvesting operations are possible because of the elevation range involved with the variety of forest types present. A diverse land ownership of federal and tribal and coordinated private entities support a range of market opportunities, including international exports.

The desired long-term outcome is to identify and attract appropriately-scaled wood utilization businesses which meet the multiple objectives of restoring and sustaining healthy forests and ecosystem services

across this important landscape, providing renewable resource benefits to the public, and sustaining a stable and productive economic base for local communities.

Large scale forested watershed restoration can be a triple win for New Mexico, providing water security, sustainable forest products, and jobs in rural areas. A transition period is needed while the pace and scale of restoration is accelerated, and there is a clearly a role for the State of New Mexico to catalyze the transition. Waiting for others to act will only result in more acres burned.

We applaud the Water and Natural Resources Committee for taking the lead to ensure that resources are leveraged to achieve a scale of watershed restoration that can make a difference for New Mexico. This letter is to offer our support in the interim as you move forward with a funding plan.

Please feel free to contact us at the information below if you have any questions on our comments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monique DiGiorgio".

Monique DiGiorgio, Representative
Chama Peak Land Alliance



NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

June 25, 2014

Representative George Dodge
Senator Phil A. Griego
New Mexico Legislature – WNR Interim Committee
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Rm.322
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Chairman Dodge and Vice-Chairman Griego:

On June 19th, the New Mexico Association of Counties (NMAC) Board of Directors took action to support the development a long-term state funding plan for forest and watershed restoration, as called for in 2014 Senate Memorial 95 and House Memorial 80. Both of these memorials demonstrate the need for solutions to protect critical water sources and reduce the risk of wildfire.

The overgrown condition of New Mexico's forested watersheds is a statewide concern and the scope of the problem is significant. Catastrophic wildfires, burning more than 40,000 acres in a day, occurred in 2011 and 2012 in both northern and southern New Mexico. These fires caused irreparable damage to the landscape and watersheds in Lincoln, Los Alamos, and Rio Arriba Counties. Large scale forested watershed restoration is necessary and can benefit New Mexico in multiple ways, including water security, sustainable forest products, and jobs in rural areas.

NMAC recognizes the existing efforts of state and federal partners, but understands the limitations of current funding. The pace and scale of landscape restoration must be increased and the State of New Mexico has a critical role in supporting these efforts. We applaud the Water and Natural Resources Committee for taking the lead to ensure that resources are leveraged to achieve a scale of watershed restoration that can make a difference for New Mexico. This letter is to offer our support in the interim as you move forward with a funding plan.

Sincerely,

Steve Kopelman
Executive Director



June 25, 2014

Representative George Dodge, Chair
Senator Phil A. Griego, Vice-Chair
New Mexico Legislature
Water and Natural Resources Interim Committee

Dear Chair Dodge and Vice-Chair Griego:

The Association of Commerce and Industry of New Mexico is pleased to support the development of a long-term state funding plan for forest and watershed restoration during the interim, as called for in 2014 Senate Memorial 95 and House Memorial 80.

The overgrown condition of New Mexico's forested watersheds is a statewide concern. The occurrence of high-severity wildfires and subsequent post-fire flooding increasingly threaten the state's water security and cause extensive spoil erosion and debris flows that degrade water quality for communities downstream. We recognize the existing efforts of federal and state agencies to restore fire-prone watersheds as their funding permits. Restoring overgrown forests is a proven solution to make forests safer and healthier, and although such treatments are already underway on a small scale, Senate and House Memorials make clear that current efforts are not sufficient given the scope of the problem, the threat of damage to critical water sources, and the cost of each large fire.

By preserving and restoring our forests through large scale forested watershed restoration, we can sustain New Mexico's water supply, increase economic benefits for local communities and contribute to an improved quality of life. A transition period is needed while the pace and scale of restoration is accelerated, and there is a clearly a role for the State of New Mexico to catalyze the transition.

We applaud the Water and Natural Resources Committee for taking the lead to ensure that resources are leveraged to achieve a scale of watershed restoration that can make a meaningful impact in New Mexico. This letter is to offer our support in the interim as you move forward with a funding plan.

Please let us know how ACI can assist with your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beverlee McClure', is written over a light blue circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Beverlee McClure, ACI
President & CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve Perich', is written over a light blue circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Steve Perich, Dekker/Perich/Sabatini
ACI Water & Land Use Policy Committee Chair



NM Business Water Task Force

June 25, 2014

Representative George Dodge
Senator Phil A. Griego
New Mexico Legislature
Water and Natural Resources Interim Committee

Dear Chairman Dodge and Vice-Chairman Griego:

The New Mexico Business Water Task Force is very interested in supporting the development of a long-term state funding plan for forest and watershed restoration as recommended in 2014 Senate Memorial 95 and House Memorial 80. The Business Water Task Force includes a number of associations involved in economic development issues and regulations affecting real estate/construction development.

The overgrown condition of New Mexico's forested watersheds is a statewide concern. Wildfires that burn 40,000 acres in a day have happened in 2011 and 2012 in both northern and southern New Mexico. The forested mountains where most of our snow falls and is stored until spring runoff, may be irreparably damaged. We recognize the existing efforts of federal and state agencies to restore fire-prone watersheds as their funding permits. Yet Senate and House Memorials make clear that current efforts are not sufficient given the scope of the problem, the threat of damage to critical water sources, and the cost of each large fire.

Large scale forested watershed restoration can be a triple win for New Mexico, providing water security, sustainable forest products and jobs in rural areas. A transition period is needed while the pace and scale of restoration is accelerated, and there is a clearly a role for the State of New Mexico to catalyze the transition. Waiting for others to act will only result in more acres burned.

We applaud the Water and Natural Resources Committee for taking the lead to ensure that resources are leveraged to achieve a scale of watershed restoration that can make a difference for New Mexico. This letter is to offer our support in the interim as you move forward with a funding plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Lynne Andersen", is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Lynne Andersen
Committee Chair
NM Business Water Task Force

Danny Hernandez, Chairman
Ronald D. Brown, Vice Chairman
Bruce M. Thomson, Secretary-Treasurer
Tim Eichenberg, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Daniel F. Lyon, Director

Jerry M. Lovato, P.E.
Executive Engineer



Albuquerque
Metropolitan
Arroyo
Flood
Control
Authority

2600 Prospect N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87107
Phone: (505) 884-2215 Fax: (505) 884-0214
Website: www.amafca.org

June 27, 2014

Representative George Dodge
Senator Phil A. Griego
New Mexico Legislature
Water and Natural Resources Interim Committee

Dear Chairman Dodge and Vice-Chairman Griego:

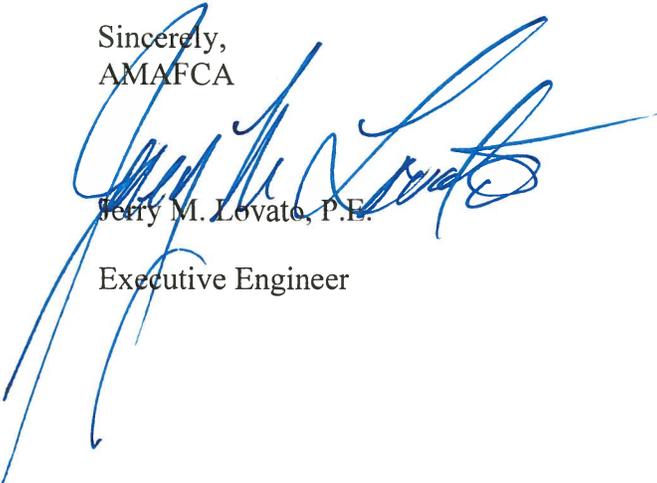
The Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority is pleased to offer our support of developing a long-term state funding plan for forest and watershed restoration during the interim, as called for in 2014 Senate Memorial 95 and House Memorial 80.

The overgrown condition of New Mexico's forested watersheds is a statewide concern. Wildfires that burn 40,000 acres in a day have happened in 2011 and 2012 in both northern and southern New Mexico. The forested mountains where most of our snow falls and is stored until spring runoff, may be irreparably damaged. We recognize the existing efforts of federal and state agencies to restore fire-prone watersheds as their funding permits. Yet Senate and House Memorials make clear that current efforts are not sufficient given the scope of the problem, the threat of damage to critical water sources, and the cost of each large fire.

Large scale forested watershed restoration can be a triple win for New Mexico, providing water security, sustainable forest products and jobs in rural areas. A transition period is needed while the pace and scale of restoration is accelerated, and there is a clearly a role for the State of New Mexico to catalyze the transition. Waiting for others to act will only result in more acres burned.

We applaud the Water and Natural Resources Committee for taking the lead to ensure that resources are leveraged to achieve a scale of watershed restoration that can make a difference for New Mexico. This letter is to offer our support in the interim as you move forward with a funding plan.

Sincerely,
AMAFCA



Jerry M. Lovato, P.E.

Executive Engineer



SUSANA MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR

New Mexico Land Grant Council

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION

Bataan Memorial Building, Suite 202 ♦ Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Chairman (505) 249-6759 ♦ FAX No. (505) 827-4948

www.nmlandgrantcouncil.org

JUAN SANCHEZ

CHAIRMAN

MACARIO GRIEGO

VICE-CHAIRMAN

June 27, 2014

Representative George Dodge
Senator Phil A. Griego
New Mexico Legislature
Water and Natural Resources Interim Committee

Dear Chairman Dodge and Vice-Chairman Griego:

The New Mexico Land Grant Council is pleased to offer our support of developing a long-term state funding plan for forest and watershed restoration during the interim, as called for in 2014 Senate Memorial 95 and House Memorial 80.

The overgrown condition of New Mexico's forested watersheds is a statewide concern. Wildfires that burn 40,000 acres in a day have happened in 2011 and 2012 in both northern and southern New Mexico. The forested mountains where most of our snow falls and is stored until spring runoff, may be irreparably damaged. We recognize the existing efforts of federal and state agencies to restore fire-prone watersheds as their funding permits. Yet Senate and House Memorials make clear that current efforts are not sufficient given the scope of the problem, the threat of damage to critical water sources, and the cost of each large fire.

Large scale forested watershed restoration can be a triple win for New Mexico, providing water security, sustainable forest products and jobs in rural areas. A transition period is needed while the pace and scale of restoration is accelerated, and there is a clearly a role for the State of New Mexico to catalyze the transition. Waiting for others to act will only result in more acres burned.

We applaud the Water and Natural Resources Committee for taking the lead to ensure that resources are leveraged to achieve a scale of watershed restoration that can make a difference for New Mexico. This letter is to offer our support in the interim as you move forward with a funding plan.

Con todo respeto,

Juan Sanchez,
Chairman



New Mexico Forest Industry Association

June 28, 2014

Representative George Dodge
Senator Phil A. Griego

Dear Chairman Dodge and Vice-Chairman Griego:

The New Mexico Forest Industry Association (NMFIA) would like to offer our support toward the development of a long-term state funding plan for forest and watershed restoration during your interim committee hearings and applaud your efforts which brought about the unanimous passage of both House Memorial 80 and Senate Memorial 95 during the 2014 legislative session.

As you know, the overgrown condition of New Mexico's forested watersheds is a statewide concern. The recent mega fires of 2011 and 2012 in both northern and southern New Mexico have brought about the realization that entire watersheds can be decimated by fire in a matter of hours but also continue to be further damaged by post-fire rains which move massive amounts of sediment and ash-laden waters, compromising water quality and harming overall watershed function for decades to come. Everyone also now recognizes that the existing federal and state efforts are insufficient to address the enormity of the problem.

Luckily there is a solution. Large scale forested watershed restoration can be a triple win for New Mexico by providing jobs in our rural communities, sustainable forest products for business creation and water security for our large population centers. Therefore, we need to transition from where we are today and accelerate the pace and scale of our restoration efforts. Clearly the State of New Mexico can help catalyze this transition.

NMFIA applauds the leadership that the Water and Natural Resources Interim Committee is taking by looking for methods of leveraging resources to achieve the pace and scale of forested watershed management that can make a difference for New Mexico and we stand ready to assist you with the formalization of a long term funding plan.

Sincerely,

José J. Varela López
Executive Director



Representative George Dodge
Senator Phil A. Griego
New Mexico Legislature
Water and Natural Resources Interim Committee

June 30, 2014

Dear Chairman Dodge and Vice-Chairman Griego:

Trout Unlimited is pleased to support developing a forest and watershed restoration funding plan during the interim, as called for in 2014 Senate Memorial 95 and House Memorial 80.

The overgrown condition of New Mexico's forested watersheds is a statewide concern. Wildfires consuming 40,000 acres a day happened in 2011 and 2012 in New Mexico. If fires of this scale become a trend, the mountains where most of our snow is stored until spring runoff may be irreparably damaged. We acknowledge efforts of federal and state agencies to restore watersheds. Yet Senate and House Memorials make clear that these efforts are insufficient to the threat to critical water sources and the cost of each large fire.

Large scale forested watershed restoration can provide water security, sustainable forest products and rural jobs. We applaud the Water and Natural Resources Committee for taking the lead to ensure that resources are leveraged to achieve a scale of watershed restoration that will make a difference for New Mexico. This letter is to offer our support in the interim as you move forward with a funding plan.

Sincerely,

Toner Mitchell
Trout Unlimited
New Mexico Public Lands Coordinator
142 Rio Seco
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 231-8860
tmitchell@tu.org

Watershed Resolution

WHEREAS: the NM Cattle Growers Association represents a major stakeholder in our forests and watersheds; and

WHEREAS: New Mexico needs a large-scale forest and watershed restoration program; and

WHEREAS: the urgency of the situation has been established in the New Mexico forest action plan, New Mexico forest and watershed health plan and the federal agency land

and resource management plans; and

WHEREAS: scientists and stakeholders agree that the current level of active management on forest lands is insufficient to address the scope, scale and pace needed to restore these forests to a more resilient condition; and

WHEREAS: uncharacteristically large and intense wildfires and insect epidemics are affecting federal forest lands in acreages that dwarf the agencies' accomplishments in actively managing forests to improve their resiliency; and

WHEREAS: if New Mexico waits for a federal solution, it will be too late; and

WHEREAS: the state needs a coordinated, multi-partner approach that leverages each federal dollar and pools revenue from diverse state, local and Native American sources as well as businesses and the private sector; and

WHEREAS: the benefits of accelerated forest and watershed restoration are numerous, including secure water sources; resilient forests and habitat for wildlife; agriculture; and hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities as well as New Mexico tourism and creation of jobs and economic development in rural communities; and

WHEREAS: the alternative, which would be to take no action, will result in damage to forests and water sources for generations to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association is a stakeholder group in the development of a long-term funding plan for federal, state, local, and tribal agencies to cooperate on forest and watershed restoration in New Mexico during the 2014 Interim Committees, and bring back recommendations to the Board of the NMCGA for such.