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1 species of plants and animals that do not exist anywhere else
2 in the world; and

3 WHEREAS, one hundred twenty-two species of animals in the
4 state are at risk of extinction, and twenty-two species have
5 been extirpated from the state altogether; and

6 WHEREAS, preventing the loss of further species is in the
7 best interest of the state's future conservation efforts,
8 economic vitality and quality of life; and

9 WHEREAS, the alteration and development of New Mexico's
10 natural areas to accommodate the state's rapidly growing
11 population have contributed to the fragmentation and
12 destruction of wildlife habitat, the degradation of water
13 resources, the loss of agricultural lands and outdoor
14 recreation space, the destruction of cultural and historic
15 sites and the diminishment of wetlands and native bosque
16 forests; and

17 WHEREAS, the potential development of New Mexico's
18 remaining natural areas and escalation of land values require
19 governmental efforts to restore, enhance or acquire lands and
20 riparian areas to preserve the state's invaluable quality of
21 life; and

22 WHEREAS, river bosques, arroyos, agricultural lands,
23 wildlife habitat and historical and cultural sites are part of
24 the state's heritage and should be preserved as a legacy for
25 the next generation; and

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1 WHEREAS, New Mexico residents strongly support the
2 protection of the state's unique landscapes, open spaces,
3 recreation areas and wildlife habitats; and

4 WHEREAS, access to public lands supports a broad range of
5 outdoor recreational opportunities; and

6 WHEREAS, neglect of the state's land, water and wildlife
7 will hinder the state's economy and its ability to attract
8 desirable industries; and

9 WHEREAS, the constitution of New Mexico declares that the
10 protection of the state's beautiful and healthful environment
11 is of fundamental importance to the public interest and that
12 the legislature shall provide protection for the air, water and
13 other natural resources; and

14 WHEREAS, a broadly supported and broadly contributed
15 citizen-based funding source for conserving wildlife habitats
16 and for maintaining and developing open spaces and outdoor
17 recreation areas throughout New Mexico is of utmost value;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of game and fish and
20 the energy, minerals and natural resources department be
21 requested to conduct a study to investigate sustainable
22 alternative funding measures to protect New Mexico's unique
23 landscapes, open spaces, recreation areas and wildlife
24 habitats; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study be completed no

1 later than December 31, 2004; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the department of game and fish and the energy,
4 minerals and natural resources department.

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