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AN ACT
RELATING TO GAME AND FISH; PROVIDING FOR A GAINING ACCESS
INTO NATURE PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE GAME
COMMISSION; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of Chapter 17, Article 4 NMSA
1978 is enacted to read:

"GAINING ACCESS INTO NATURE PROGRAM--POLICY--ADDITIONAL
POWERS OF STATE GAME COMMISSION.--

A. It is the policy of the state of New Mexico to
encourage and promote wildlife-associated recreation in New
Mexico and to provide for public participation in the use of
available natural resources in a manner that will benefit the
general public in its enjoyment of public assets and the
state and its political subdivisions in increased economic
development.

B. To implement the state policy, the state game
commission shall develop and administer a "gaining access
into nature program" pursuant to the provisions of this
section.

C. In addition to its other powers, in order to
develop and administer the gaining access into nature
program, the state game commission may:

- (1) designate areas and properties under its
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1 control where activities other than hunting, fishing and
2 trapping are available to the public;

3 (2) designate activities that may take place
4 on properties under its control and designate conditions and
5 qualifications for the activities;

6 (3) enter into partnership and joint powers
7 agreements, leases and other contractual arrangements with
8 other state agencies, private landowners and other private
9 entities to jointly administer, promote and expand the
10 gaining access into nature program;

11 (4) issue permits, special use licenses and
12 other authorizations for access to individuals and
13 organizations to access state game commission properties for
14 purposes of participating in gaining access into nature
15 programs and charge fees for the access privileges; provided
16 that the fees do not exceed the reasonable costs associated
17 with developing and administering the gaining access into
18 nature program;

19 (5) engage in public outreach programs to
20 identify through public meetings, surveys and educational
21 programs the interests of the public that may be best served
22 by the gaining access into nature program;

23 (6) adopt such rules as it deems necessary
24 for programs, events or other activities to properly
25 implement the goals and the administration of the gaining

1 access into nature program; and

2 (7) subject to appropriation by the
3 legislature, expend money from the game protection fund
4 necessary to develop and administer the gaining access into
5 nature program, including:

6 (a) the reasonable costs of improving
7 habitat and properties in order to make them suitable for the
8 public uses intended;

9 (b) costs of personnel necessary to
10 service the properties being used for the program and to
11 provide informational and interpretive services on the
12 properties;

13 (c) the reasonable costs of maintenance
14 and repair of habitat and properties being used for public
15 access under the provisions of this section; and

16 (d) costs associated with issuing
17 permits, licenses and other authorizations for access.

18 D. All money collected from issuing and selling
19 gaining access into nature permits, licenses and other
20 authorizations for access shall be deposited in the game
21 protection fund." _____

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