

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 16

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE STATE PARKS DIVISION OF THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND  
12 NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF  
13 ACQUIRING LAND FOR A WILD HORSE STATE PARK.

14  
15 WHEREAS, wild horses of Spanish colonial descent are part  
16 of New Mexico's living heritage and history, but they are  
17 endangered and may become extinct in New Mexico; and

18 WHEREAS, like the buffalo, wild horses are emblematic of  
19 the old west, and it is the image of wild horses running free  
20 across the plains of the west that lives in the hearts and  
21 minds of Americans; and

22 WHEREAS, the wild horse is part of New Mexico's  
23 enchantment and essence and is an integral part of the Indian,  
24 Hispanic, ranching and farming cultures of New Mexico; and

25 WHEREAS, there are several herds of wild horses descended

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1 from the Spanish horses introduced into New Mexico in the 1500s  
2 that range freely on lands owned by the federal bureau of land  
3 management in Sandoval county near the village of Placitas; and

4 WHEREAS, although tourism is the second-largest industry  
5 in the state, tourism in New Mexico could increase by  
6 attracting thousands of tourists from all over the world who  
7 are intrigued by the history, culture and art of the American  
8 west; and

9 WHEREAS, a wild horse state park could prompt local  
10 economic development by drawing tourists into a region to see  
11 nondomesticated horses in a natural setting; and

12 WHEREAS, a wild horse state park could link history and  
13 culture to attract visitors; and

14 WHEREAS, a wild horse state park could serve as a valuable  
15 resource for educational and youth-oriented organizations; and

16 WHEREAS, a partnership between the state and the federal  
17 government to protect, manage and promote several of the  
18 remaining wild horse herds in Sandoval county through the  
19 establishment of a wild horse state park would promote a  
20 national legacy with great cultural significance and would  
21 increase tourism revenues in the area of Sandoval county; and

22 WHEREAS, the federal bureau of land management will be  
23 updating the resource management plan for five thousand acres  
24 under its jurisdiction located in Sandoval county, which update  
25 may provide a unique opportunity for the creation of a wild

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1 horse state park; and

2 WHEREAS, the federal Recreation and Public Purposes Act of  
3 1954 provides that a state or state agency may acquire up to  
4 six thousand four hundred acres of land annually for recreation  
5 purposes at no cost;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state parks division of the  
8 energy, minerals and natural resources department be requested  
9 to conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing a wild  
10 horse state park located on five thousand acres of land to be  
11 acquired from the federal bureau of land management that will  
12 be accessible through the village of Placitas in Sandoval  
13 county; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division  
15 present its findings and recommendations to the appropriate  
16 interim legislative committees by September 1, 2008; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
18 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural  
19 resources and to the director of the state parks division.

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