

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 38

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE STATE GAME COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH COORDINATE EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE WORLD-CLASS TAILWATER TROUT FISHERY BELOW THE NAVAJO DAM ON THE SAN JUAN RIVER.

WHEREAS, the quality waters section of the San Juan river below the Navajo dam in San Juan county is a world-famous fishery, attracting anglers from across the country and around the world; and

WHEREAS, the trout fishery on the San Juan river below Navajo dam is an important resource to New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, the trout fishery on the San Juan river below Navajo dam generates millions of dollars in revenue that benefit local, regional and state economies; and

WHEREAS, the San Juan river below Navajo dam supports a

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1 vibrant and economically valuable guiding industry; and

2 WHEREAS, fishing and recreation on the San Juan river
3 below Navajo dam are beneficial uses of renewable wildlife
4 resources that are essential to the long-term economy of New
5 Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, fishing is an integral part of the fabric of New
7 Mexico's economy and is an important cultural and traditional
8 activity for all New Mexicans; and

9 WHEREAS, the quality waters section of the San Juan river
10 below Navajo dam is facing reduced flow levels and other issues
11 that could negatively impact the fishery and riparian zone; and

12 WHEREAS, a need exists to coordinate current and ongoing
13 management activities of the multiple state and federal
14 agencies with jurisdiction over the Navajo dam, fishery and
15 riparian zone of the San Juan river below Navajo dam; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexicans who value the San Juan river trout
17 fishery are eager to participate in a public process for the
18 protection and enhancement of the fishery;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state game commission and the
21 department of game and fish be requested to coordinate with the
22 federal bureau of land management, the federal bureau of
23 reclamation, the state parks division of the energy, minerals
24 and natural resources department and appropriate New Mexico
25 academic institutions to plan and implement a program to make

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1 the San Juan river fishery and appurtenant riparian zone below
2 Navajo dam the world's finest; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, to accomplish this goal, the
4 department of game and fish be requested to coordinate efforts
5 to implement a long-term plan that prioritizes areas of concern
6 and proposes solutions that will maintain or enhance the San
7 Juan river fishery and riparian zone below Navajo dam; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any plan to maintain or
9 enhance the San Juan river fishery and riparian zone below
10 Navajo dam developed by the department of game and fish in
11 coordination with the federal bureau of land management, the
12 federal bureau of reclamation, the state parks division of the
13 energy, minerals and natural resources department and
14 appropriate New Mexico academic institutions shall be
15 thoroughly vetted with the public through public meetings and
16 meetings with recreational and commercial user groups, as well
17 as by posting on the internet; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state game commission and
19 the department of game and fish provide a semiannual progress
20 update on the planning and implementation efforts to the
21 appropriate interim legislative committee; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and
23 fish, in coordination with the federal bureau of land
24 management, the federal bureau of reclamation and the state
25 parks division of the energy, minerals and natural resources

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1 department, seek federal funding and contributions from private
2 industry and interested recreational user groups to complete
3 the planning and implementation activities; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the governor, the director of the department of
6 game and fish and the director of the state parks division of
7 the energy, minerals and natural resources department.

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