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HOUSE BILL 563

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

Jeff Steinborn

AN ACT

RELATING TO PARKS; CREATING THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL COMMISSION TO  
RECOMMEND POLICIES TO ESTABLISH A RIO GRANDE TRAIL; CREATING  
THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. ~~[NEW MATERIAL]~~ RIO GRANDE TRAIL COMMISSION  
CREATED--MEMBERSHIP--FUND CREATED--ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT.--

A. The "Rio Grande trail commission" is created to  
establish the Rio Grande trail to run the length of the state  
from Colorado to Texas. The commission shall define and  
recommend viable path routes of the Rio Grande Trail, mitigate  
challenges related to its establishment and define and  
recommend other features, facilities and enhancements needed on  
the trail. The commission shall also make recommendations to

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1 the legislature as needed and report its progress annually to  
2 the appropriate interim committees that deal with water and  
3 natural resources and rural and economic development. The  
4 commission shall consist of members appointed by the secretary  
5 of energy, minerals and natural resources and shall include:

6 (1) the secretary of energy, minerals and  
7 natural resources or the secretary's designee;

8 (2) a representative from each of the  
9 following:

10 (a) the economic development department;

11 (b) the department of game and fish;

12 (c) the department of transportation;

13 (d) each of the conservancy or  
14 irrigation districts served by water in the Rio Grande;

15 (e) an organization representing the  
16 acequia community;

17 (f) an organization representing  
18 counties;

19 (g) an organization representing the  
20 land grant community;

21 (h) an organization representing  
22 municipalities;

23 (i) an organization representing Rio  
24 Grande area Indian nations, tribes or pueblos;

25 (j) an organization with trail

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1 management experience;

2 (k) the state parks division of the  
3 energy, minerals and natural resources department; and

4 (l) the tourism department; and

5 (3) two members of the public interested in  
6 the Rio Grande trail development.

7 B. The secretary shall appoint the chair from among  
8 the members of the commission and invite federal entities to be  
9 a part of the commission, including the:

10 (1) bureau of land management;

11 (2) bureau of reclamation;

12 (3) international boundary and water  
13 commission;

14 (4) national park service;

15 (5) United States army corps of engineers;

16 (6) United States fish and wildlife service;

17 (7) United States forest service; and

18 (8) the offices of the New Mexico  
19 congressional delegation.

20 C. The commission shall be administratively  
21 attached to and staffed by the energy, minerals and natural  
22 resources department. Members of the commission are entitled  
23 to per diem and mileage as provided in the Per Diem and Mileage  
24 Act and shall receive no other compensation, perquisite or  
25 allowance, contingent upon money being available for this

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1 purpose.

2 D. The commission shall:

3 (1) define and recommend viable path routes of  
4 the Rio Grande trail that shall be contiguous where possible  
5 and include only land that is expressly authorized by the owner  
6 for inclusion in the Rio Grande trail;

7 (2) mitigate challenges related to the Rio  
8 Grande trail's establishment, including facilitating  
9 negotiations and discussions with landowners and jurisdictions  
10 surrounding the Rio Grande;

11 (3) define and recommend other features,  
12 facilities and enhancements needed on the Rio Grande trail;

13 (4) make recommendations to the legislature as  
14 needed; and

15 (5) report its progress annually to the  
16 appropriate interim legislative committees related to water and  
17 natural resources and economic development.

18 E. The "Rio Grande trail fund" is created in the  
19 state treasury. The fund consists of appropriations,  
20 donations, grants to the fund, income from investment of the  
21 fund and money otherwise accruing to the fund. Money in the  
22 fund shall not revert to any other fund at the end of a fiscal  
23 year. The energy, minerals and natural resources department  
24 shall administer the fund, and money in the fund is  
25 appropriated to the energy, minerals and natural resources

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1 department to develop and establish the Rio Grande trail.  
2 Money in the fund shall be disbursed on warrants signed by the  
3 secretary of finance and administration pursuant to vouchers  
4 signed by the secretary of energy, minerals and natural  
5 resources or the secretary's authorized representative.

6 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
7 provisions of this act is July 1, 2015.

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