

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 109

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Pete Campos

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO STUDY
12 THE POTENTIAL FOR FLOODING FOLLOWING THE UTE PARK FIRE AND TO
13 ASSIST COLFAX COUNTY IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL FLOOD
14 MITIGATION EFFORTS AND POSSIBLE FUNDING.

15
16 WHEREAS, on May 31, 2018 a fire started one mile east of
17 Ute Park and burned a total of thirty-six thousand seven
18 hundred forty acres before the fire was contained on June 19,
19 2018; and

20 WHEREAS, thirteen thousand forty-seven acres were
21 designated a high severity burn, which completely destroyed the
22 areas, while twelve thousand six hundred sixty-two acres were
23 designated as a moderate severity burn; and

24 WHEREAS, of the total acreage burned, approximately
25 twenty-six thousand acres of the fire were on the Philmont

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1 scout ranch; and

2 WHEREAS, the Ute Park fire threatened the communities of
3 Cimarron and Ute Park, with mandatory evacuations in place from
4 June 1 and June 2, 2018, respectively, until both were lifted
5 on June 8, 2018; and

6 WHEREAS, the Ute Park fire destroyed fourteen buildings
7 and threatened over seven hundred fifty structures; and

8 WHEREAS, although the majority of the fire burned private
9 land, that land is a major watershed for the surrounding area;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the Cimarron river watershed, where the majority
12 of the fire occurred, is a primary water source for the town of
13 Springer and a secondary source of water for the village of
14 Cimarron and the city of Raton; and

15 WHEREAS, additionally, there are thousands of other
16 shareholders and users of the water coming from the watershed
17 in Colfax county and every area downstream from the Cimarron
18 river watershed; and

19 WHEREAS, in the months that followed the Ute Park fire,
20 there were three separate flood events that impacted Ute Park,
21 according to Colfax county statistics; and

22 WHEREAS, over the course of the three floods and post-
23 flood cleanup, Colfax county removed approximately two hundred
24 thousand yards of material just to keep the public roads clear;
25 and

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