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HOUSE MEMORIAL 53

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

Angelica Rubio and Stephanie Garcia Richard

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE LAND OFFICE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OPENING STATE TRUST LANDS TO ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL AND ECOTOURISM OPPORTUNITIES.

WHEREAS, the state land office is responsible for administering nine million acres of surface and thirteen million acres of subsurface estate for the beneficiaries of the state land trust, which includes schools, universities, hospitals and other important public institutions; and

WHEREAS, state trust lands are not public lands, but are instead the subject of a public trust created to support the education of the children of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, state trust land is located in thirty-two of New Mexico's thirty-three counties; and

WHEREAS, recreational access to state trust land is gained

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1 through a permit system determined by the specific type of use,
2 such as hiking, camping, hunting and recreation for education;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, visitors purchase recreational access permits
5 from the state land office to access state trust lands; and

6 WHEREAS, permission is required to legally access trust
7 land, and some activities are prohibited or restricted on state
8 trust land; and

9 WHEREAS, camping is allowed on leased state trust land
10 with the written permission of the surface lessee; and

11 WHEREAS, state trust land recreational areas include
12 Mystery stone in Valencia county, Monticello box in Sierra
13 county, Moon mountain in Lincoln county, Black lake in Colfax
14 county, Melrose trap in Curry county, the Rio Grande bosque in
15 Bernalillo county, La Semilla in Bernalillo county, Sierra
16 grande in Union county, White peak in Colfax county and the
17 Luera mountains in Catron county; and

18 WHEREAS, in the 2016-2017 state game commission easement,
19 several pre-approved camping areas for hunters were allocated
20 throughout the state, and sites and access points still are
21 being determined; and

22 WHEREAS, according to the outdoor industry association's
23 national outdoor recreation economy report, recreation and
24 ecotourism in New Mexico generate nine billion nine hundred
25 million dollars (\$9,900,000,000) in annual consumer spending,

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1 generate ninety-nine thousand direct jobs, generate two billion
2 eight hundred million dollars (\$2,800,000,000) in New Mexico
3 wages and salaries and contribute six hundred twenty-three
4 million dollars (\$623,000,000) to state and local tax revenue;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, opening state public lands for additional
7 ecotourism and recreational opportunities would substantially
8 contribute to state and local tax revenues and help diversify
9 rural economies with low-impact revenue-generating activities,
10 such as birding, horseback riding, camping, hiking, wildlife
11 viewing and mountain biking; and

12 WHEREAS, additional recreational opportunities on state
13 lands would complement and bolster the tourism department's New
14 Mexico true advertising campaign and contribute to tourism, one
15 of the state's fastest-growing sustainable economic sectors;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
17 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state land
18 office be requested to study the feasibility and economic
19 impact of opening state trust lands to additional recreational
20 and ecotourism opportunities; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state land office be
22 requested to report its findings and conclusions to the
23 appropriate interim legislative committee by October 1, 2018;
24 and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the commissioner of public lands, the co-chairs
2 of the New Mexico legislative council and the secretary of
3 tourism.

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