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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 3

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

INTRODUCED BY

Cliff R. Pirtle

DISCUSSION DRAFT

FOR THE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO TRANSFER EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY ACRES FROM THE LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF THE MESCALERO APACHE TRIBE.

WHEREAS, Sierra Blanca is one of the four sacred mountains of the Mescalero Apache Tribe and is central to the creation beliefs of the Mescalero Apache people; and

WHEREAS, the eight hundred sixty acres contain many plants and biological materials sacred to the Mescalero Apache people; and

WHEREAS, the Mescalero Apache Tribe has operated Ski Apache on eight hundred sixty acres of United States forest service land located on Sierra Blanca pursuant to a special use permit; and

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1           WHEREAS, the Mescalero Apache Tribe, since 2011, has  
2 invested more than twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) in  
3 infrastructure on the land that it currently occupies pursuant  
4 to the special use permit; and

5           WHEREAS, the Mescalero Apache Tribe has been  
6 internationally recognized for its long-standing sustainable  
7 forest management practices; and

8           WHEREAS, the tribe wishes to employ its sustainable forest  
9 management practices on the eight hundred sixty acres currently  
10 subject to the special use permit; and

11           WHEREAS, Ski Apache employs three hundred fifty people  
12 during the ski season and contributes millions of dollars to  
13 the local economy; and

14           WHEREAS, the transfer of the eight hundred sixty acres of  
15 Ski Apache land from the United States forest service to the  
16 United States department of the interior will not negatively  
17 affect the real property tax base of either Lincoln county or  
18 Otero county; and

19           WHEREAS, this transfer of land from the United States  
20 forest service to the United States department of the interior  
21 would not create any additional water rights or change any  
22 water consumption on Ski Apache land; and

23           WHEREAS, this transfer of land from the United States  
24 forest service to the United States department of the interior  
25 would benefit the economies of Lincoln county, Otero county and

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1 New Mexico;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States congress be  
4 requested to transfer eight hundred sixty acres currently used  
5 by the Mescalero Apache Tribe pursuant to a special use permit  
6 to the United States department of the interior for the benefit  
7 of the Mescalero Apache Tribe; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
9 transmitted to members of New Mexico's congressional  
10 delegation, the United States secretary of agriculture, the  
11 United States secretary of the interior, the chief of the  
12 United States forest service, the assistant secretary-Indian  
13 affairs of the United States department of the interior and the  
14 president of the Mescalero Apache Tribe.