

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE STATE PARKS DIVISION OF THE ENERGY, MINERALS
3 AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
4 ESTABLISHING BROAD CANYON RANCH AS A STATE PARK.
5

6 WHEREAS, Broad canyon ranch, located just twenty miles
7 north of Las Cruces, New Mexico's second largest city, offers
8 connectivity to expansive wild and open landscapes in the
9 Organ mountains-Desert peaks national monument and access to
10 rare and threatened Chihuahuan desert wetlands and riparian
11 forests along a mile of the Rio Grande; and

12 WHEREAS, Broad canyon ranch was acquired by the
13 state parks division of the energy, minerals and
14 natural resources department in 2008 to establish a
15 destination for outdoor education, for family outings and for
16 wildlife lovers to explore the Rio Grande and Chihuahuan
17 desert uplands; and

18 WHEREAS, Broad canyon ranch includes seven hundred
19 eighty-three deeded acres and four thousand eight hundred
20 thirty-one acres of public and state land, with a possible
21 one hundred nine acres that could be added through the land
22 and water conservation fund; and

23 WHEREAS, although owned by the state parks division,
24 Broad canyon ranch has never formally been designated a state
25 park for public use and enjoyment; and

1 WHEREAS, New Mexico acknowledges that young people
2 should have access to the outdoors, and New Mexico was the
3 first to establish an outdoor equity grant program fund to
4 expose more young people to the state's beautiful natural
5 spaces; and

6 WHEREAS, Broad canyon ranch is adjacent to an already
7 popular spot for hiking: Slot canyon, a part of the
8 Organ mountains-Desert peaks national monument; and

9 WHEREAS, to access the monument, visitors must park on
10 the highway right of way and cross state land; and

11 WHEREAS, creating an official state park at Broad canyon
12 ranch would ensure safe public access to the rugged bluffs of
13 Slot canyon and the Rio Grande corridor for visitors to
14 southern New Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, the state is authorized to acquire lands or
16 interests in lands for state park or state recreational
17 purposes by gift, donation, devise or purchase; and

18 WHEREAS, an important criterion in the development of a
19 state park is the completion of a feasibility study, the
20 first step in obtaining lands for the development of a
21 state park;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state parks division of the
24 energy, minerals and natural resources department be
25 requested to study the feasibility of establishing

1 Broad canyon ranch as a state park; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division be
3 requested to report its findings and recommendations to the
4 interim legislative committee dealing with economic and rural
5 development issues and other appropriate interim committees;
6 and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
9 resources and the director of the state parks division. _____

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