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SENATE MEMORIAL 95

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Phil A. Griego

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE
APPROPRIATE INTERIM COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM FUNDING
PLAN FOR FOREST AND WATERSHED RESTORATION WORK IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, New Mexico needs a large-scale forest and
watershed restoration program; and

WHEREAS, the urgency of the situation has been established
in the New Mexico forest action plan, New Mexico forest and
watershed health plan and the federal agency land and resource
management plans; and

WHEREAS, scientists and stakeholders agree that the
current level of active management on forest lands is
insufficient to address the scope, scale and pace needed to
restore these forests to a more resilient condition; and

WHEREAS, uncharacteristically large and intense wildfires

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1 and insect epidemics are affecting federal forest lands in
2 acreages that dwarf the agencies' accomplishments in actively
3 managing forests to improve their resiliency; and

4 WHEREAS, if New Mexico waits for a federal solution, it
5 will be too late; and

6 WHEREAS, the state needs a coordinated, multi-partner
7 approach that leverages each federal dollar and pools revenue
8 from diverse state, local and Native American sources as well
9 as businesses and the private sector; and

10 WHEREAS, the benefits of accelerated forest and watershed
11 restoration are numerous, including secure water sources;
12 resilient forests and habitat for wildlife; and hunting,
13 fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities as well as New
14 Mexico tourism and creation of jobs and economic development in
15 rural communities; and

16 WHEREAS, the alternative, which would be to take no
17 action, will result in damage to forests and water sources for
18 generations to come;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
20 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
21 requested to direct the appropriate interim committee of the
22 legislature to develop a long-term funding plan for federal,
23 state, local and tribal agencies and diverse stakeholders to
24 cooperate on forest and watershed restoration work in New
25 Mexico; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee report its
2 recommendations to the full legislature by the convening of the
3 first session of the fifty-second legislature in January 2015;
4 and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the state forester, the chair of the interstate
7 stream commission, the state engineer, the New Mexico
8 congressional delegation and the co-chairs of the New Mexico
9 legislative council.