

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 2/10/2016 6:00 PM | Meeting location GRMC Conference Room

Meeting called by Doug Dexter

Type of meeting Monthly business meeting

Note taker Cindi deCapiteau

Attendees

Susan Austin, Joan Bacon, Cathy Brett, Sharon Brown, Dawn Byrum, Tom Conway, Cindi deCapiteau, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Don Dockery, Mike Dowd, Vicki Dowd, Gerry Engel, Amy Hartell, Jean Hill, Andrea Imler, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Russ Imler, Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Maureen McLeod, Mara Miles, Ted Miles, Kathy Murch, Cathy Raiclu, Scott Raiclu, Cheryl Roth, Randy Roth, Nat Williams, Laurie Wlosinski

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic *Call to order* | Presenter Doug Dexter

Doug Dexter reached into his shirt pocket to pull out a chorus line and a 10-piece band. The gabbling among the attendees (see above), who were sardined into the ever-shrinking GRMC Conference Room, immediately ceased as Doug called the meeting to order.

For unknown reasons, sitting on the table at the end of the room was a coffee setup, for which nobody claimed responsibility. It is unknown if anybody partook of this unexpected perk, but the assumption is that even though we are outgrowing the room, the hospital is providing something for the \$15 the chapter pays every time we use it.

Doug noted that he would check into reserving the commodious conference room over at the hospital's emergency medical services building (across the parking lot).

Action items

Person responsible

Reserve EMS conference room for March 2016 meeting

Doug Dexter

Agenda topic *Recognize guests and new members* | Presenter Doug Dexter

We were joined this evening by Cathy and Scott Raiclu (many apologies from the secretary, who isn't sure she's spelling the name correctly, but having researched the names Raiclu and Raichu, decided on Raiclu due to its eastern European origin). Ahem. Anyway . . .

Cathy and Scott moved down to the rocky and prickly Gila region terrain from cold and snowy Colorado. They have two quarter horses and love to ride. We sincerely hope they will love to ride with us, given our propensity for hilarity, attention to safety, and enthusiasm about removing big logs from public recreational trails.

Dan Dockery joined our ranks this evening. Hey Dan!

Agenda topic *Additions or changes to agenda*

Per normal behavior, the attendees approved tonight's agenda and last month's meeting minutes without change.

Agenda topic *Financial report* | Presenter *Jean Hill*

See attached report on page XXX. Money is coming in for the NAN Ranch ride, which along with new memberships, makes our balance look mighty fine. Although the NAN Ranch ride funds are going into the chapter's only bank account, Jean advised that she is keeping track of them separately.

Agenda topic *Membership* | Presenter *Jean Hill*

As noted on the report, chapter membership is now up to 59 people. Another membership application was submitted this evening, which brings our ranks to a total of 60.

Agenda topic *Publicity* | Presenter *Ted Miles, Mara Miles*

NAN Ranch ride. Ted Miles passed around a copy of the most recent issue of *Desert Exposure*, which contains an article about the NAN Ranch ride, complete with photographs that seem to have been taken someplace other than the NAN Ranch. There are, however, some places out on the ranch that resemble the photos, but to avoid misleading anybody who expects, on the basis of the article, to loll around in a rain-forest-like environment, please direct interested parties to the NAN Ranch website at <http://www.nanranch.com/>.

Horses, Wine, and Art fundraiser. Mara Miles and Laurie Wlosinski met with friend-of-the-club Libby Beck and her cohort, Arlene, about their request to conduct a joint fundraiser. The early plan for the event is to collar well-known artists, get them to donate their work, then auction it off, probably in connection with a wine-and-food reception. The organization represented by Libby and Arlene will assume all costs for the event and share 60% of the proceeds with GBCH.

The estimated date conflicts with the NAN Ranch ride, but Libby and Arlene are amenable to changing the date to one in the fall of 2016. Libby and Arlene will do some research to find out which restaurants are willing to contribute food, as well as which wineries might donate something for participants to imbibe. A possible venue is the Elks Club building down on Texas Street in Silver City.

The San Vicente arts group wants nothing more than labor from the GBCH chapter. That labor seems to involve dressing up in Sunday finest attire and hobnobbing with wine drinkers, as well as assisting with setup, marketing, distributing flyers, and other ground work.

Agenda topic *Public Service/Communications* | Presenter *Gerry Engel*

Trail Project Plan. Gerry Engel met with Amy Hartell (in her USFS capacity) to review Gerry's proposed trail project plan for the coming season. They made some modifications, about which Gerry didn't elaborate, but will presumably issue a revised schedule, having baited our curiosity.

Saw Training. First aid training, which is a prerequisite for anybody who strives for sawyer training and certification, will occur on Tuesday, February 16th, 8:30 a.m. at the Silver City Forest Service office 8:30 a.m.

There's a good chance that the Gila chapter can put on its own sawyer training, having more qualified sawyers among us than downed trees in the Silver Fire burn scar. Rawlings Lemon will meet with Aaron Jones (the saw training guy up at the Wilderness ranger station in Mimbres) to find out what it will take to pull that off. If we have a lot of people interested in learning how to cut logs without slicing open one's femoral artery, we can put on multiple sessions. The saw training could happen out on the trail, rather than in an artificial environment like a Forest Service sawdust lot.

Packing Demo. Doug Dexter mentioned that Marybeth Foglia would like us to put on a packing demo at the Silver City library on March 12. The insurance provided by our dues to the NMBCHA (you know—the insurance that nobody can tell us what it covers or how much it costs) will cover our participation in the demo.

Trail Days. Silver City's annual celebration of its coveted status as a Continental Divide Trail Gateway Community is coming up in mid-April. The chapter put on a packing demo last year and educated as many as, oh gee, six visitors, because we were tucked in a fenced lot behind a building on Bullard Street. Our efforts were nevertheless well-received and would be again this year if we want to do something. Gerry will work the demos into the schedule.

Trail Days organizers are expecting to host 300 thru hikers on the CDT during this year's celebration. As always, The Little Toad Creek brewery on Bullard Street in Silver City will host a party. Friday NIGHT at little toad will be a party.

Continental Divide Trail Condition. Gerry Engel mused that the burn area on the Continental Divide Trail above Piños Altos is still closed. We cleared part of it last year and this year more of the trail is supposed to be cleared by the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. It would be nice to have the trail completely open in time for Trail Days. Gerry is talking to Brian Martinez (Gila office, USFS) to exchange information about parts of the CDT that require reconstruction and about work on the Gomez Peak/Little Walnut trailhead.

Doug added that people from the Western Institute of Lifelong Learning (WILL) would like to do ground work. WILL also has people who teach welding; we could approach them to work up a sign that gives credit where credit is due for trail maintenance.

CDT-Greenways Trails Group. The CDT-Greenways organization will hold a meeting as follows:

When: Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 3 pm

Where: WNMU Student Memorial Bldg., 3rd Floor

Agenda:

1. Introductions and Agenda Review
 - Call for additional agenda items
2. Status reports:
 - CDTC Trail Days event and Michelob grant funds spending
 - San Vicente trailhead
 - Visitor's Center parking
 - Update on connector trail
 - Highway clean up efforts
 - Recreation Trail Program grant award

It would benefit us all if somebody from GBCH can attend this meeting.

National Parks 100th birthday. The National Park Service is celebrating its centennial on August 25, 2016. Centennial events will be held at various parks all over the country, although details about those occurring in New Mexico are still hazy. That said, it would be good to have a presence at one of them.

Action items

Person responsible

Find out date of Trail Days and let Gerry know	Doug Dexter
Amend project schedule to accommodate packing demos	Gerry Engel
Report information about NPS centennial celebration	Doug Dexter

Agenda topic *Equine Evacuation* | Presenter *Doug Dexter*

The maps showing who has horses where now exist. Doug asked if they are in a form we can distribute, but the secretary didn't record either an affirmative or negative response.

Doug also mentioned that we need to revise the call tree, given the number of new members in the chapter. He commented that if you don't want to be part of the call tree—which serves as a job-sharing strategy so that information about evacuation emergencies can flow to everybody who needs to have it—if you don't want to be part of that effort, let Doug know.

Doug reiterated his observation from several meetings ago that a cool education segment would be on the proper stocking and maintenance of one's equine evacuation trailer. Cheryl picked up the torch and will plan such an event for May 2016.

The Western Institute for Lifelong Learning (WILL) is putting on a lunch-and-learn program called Fire Wise. The session will highlight the efforts of the Wind Canyon community, revealing how they have prepared for fire emergencies, prevention, evacuation, and so on. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 17, from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

Plan and announce evacuation trailer preparation education segment in May 2016

Cheryl Roth

May 11, 2016

Agenda topic GCSAR | Presenter Laurie Wlosinski

The gallant and plucky horse-mounted members of Grant County Search and Rescue (SAR) (all of whom happen to be members of the Gila BCH chapter) did a fantastic job at a training exercise in February. In the exercise, the mounted unit worked with the SAR ground crew at Ft. Bayard. A person hid in the forest and nobody knew where he was. The Imlers, Gerry Engel, Rawlings Lemon, and Doug Dexter worked as teams and totally nailed the effort to find the pseudo lost soul, who was up on Signal Knob (a high place in central west Ft. Bayard). The subject left tracks, but the GCSAR trackers couldn't find them. The mounted team (Doug) found a single footprint and called out for the subject, which the subject heard at 11:15 a.m., but was not allowed to answer until 1:00. The next team came by at 1:15 and although the mounted team knew where the subject was, they couldn't rescue him because it wasn't part of the plan. The exercise gave a good workout to test equipment, ability, skills, and horses. Laurie had high praise for the mounted team's work, calling the entire exercise a very good session.

Agenda topic NAN Ranch Ride | Presenter Vicki Dowd

Vicki Dowd reported on progress with organization and preparation for the upcoming competitive trail ride at NAN Ranch. Ride dates for the event are Saturday and Sunday, April 2-3, 2016, with competitors arriving on Friday, April 1).

Vicki expressed her appreciation that GCSAR mounted team members will be helping at the ride.

Trail preparation and other on-site activities in advance of the ride were interrupted for three weeks because the ranch's trappers needed more time to eradicate coyotes from the ranch. We can't get back out to the ranch for another week-and-a-half, but this is a minor delay given that the trails are 90% marked and require only two more days to complete.

Ride "timers" (you know who you are) will be coming out to ride and time the trails for both novice and open trails—timing rides will occur on Saturday, March 5. (Timing involves somebody riding the trail to find out how long it takes to get from point to point.)

The ride organizers are receiving lots of inquiries from the Silver City area for entry forms, but none have been turned in yet. NATRC, however, has received four entries online from Colorado. Vicki gave several entry forms to Nancy Imler to make available out in Buckhorn. Vicki noted that she expects entries to ramp up after March 1.

We also have distributed flyers about the ride for competitors.

Emergency email blasts will take place to get the news out about this ride. NATRC's Region 3 organization publishes a ride booklet, but it won't be available until two weeks before the NAN Ranch ride, which doesn't give wannabe competitors enough time to condition their horses.

Next month's GBCH meeting (Wednesday, March 9) will be devoted exclusively to the NAN Ranch Ride. going to have a total trail ride meeting. Everybody who has volunteered for a job needs to attend so that everybody can understand what everybody else is doing.

At a date closer to the start of the ride, Vicki plans to go out to the ranch with drivers, one at a time, to show the drivers where each one needs to be so he or she can focus on that specific location.

Sandra Weir asked if it's ok for GBCH members, to which Vicki enthusiastically replied YES. Sandy suggested that it would be nice to send out an invitation specifically to Gila chapter members.

Vicki closed by recommending that anybody who hasn't done a competitive trail ride before should enter the novice class. She left a stack of brochures.

Agenda topic *USFS Wilderness District Ranger* | **Presenter** *Rachelle Huddleston-Lorton*

We were honored this evening by the presence of Rachelle Huddleston-Lorton and her outrageous blue hair. Rachelle is the new wilderness district ranger for the USFS office up in Mimbres. She's an interesting person and if you missed this meeting, you missed some entertaining information.

Rachelle completed her undergraduate degree at Humbolt State University in California and holds a Masters degree from New Mexico State University in—get this—big horn sheep. She ended up here after a stint in Yuma, AZ with the Bureau of Land Management, and in Palm Springs, CA as a big horn sheep biologist. She's also worked at the Hart Mountain antelope range in Oregon, where she "put radios on everything that moved, even sage grouse." You catch sage grouse, Rachelle advised, with a backpack generator and a huge light, which mesmerizes the grouse so you can throw a net over them.

Rachelle inherited kids from a sister who passed away, but couldn't make raising kids work on the remote Hart Mountain range, so she went to work for the Forest Service and ended up in Lakeview, Oregon while she transitioned into a natural resources staff position, with details as district ranger up there. She ended up in Thorn Bay on Prince of Wales Sound in Alaska, where the work was all about timber management and they're still clear-cutting old growth forest, which didn't fit her world view of balance between conservation and use. Rachelle also discovered that she missed the desert and, although she didn't expect to return to New Mexico, she saw the Mimbres ranger job and went for it.

Rachelle's passion is public land management. She focuses on the balance between conservation and use of public land and keeps that in mind for all the decisions she makes in her job. She noted that NEPA—the National Environmental Policy Act—compels the Forest Service to consult with the public before the Service acts on something.

Rachelle's husband has retired as a wildlife biologist and hunts five months out of the year to fill the moments not occupied by fishing. The couple has been in the Gila area since November.

Rachelle is now in the process of filling recreation program positions, writing grants for funding that will augment the program.

Groups like GBCH are important and she can't stress enough how important our partnership is to the USFS.

Rachelle doesn't own a horse, but she has a couple of big dogs (that presumably she doesn't ride). She is thrilled to be here and left her promise to be out in the wilderness, as well as a stack of business cards. She reminded us that the USFS can't get it all done without our help and the operation needs our input to do its best job. Rachelle invited us to call, email, or come up to the ranger station to see her.

SW Horseman's Association. Cheryl Roth reminded us that there exists in Silver City the esteemed Southwest Horseman's Association. For a \$15 membership fee, you can use their rodeo arena. Cheryl has membership applications, but one is attached here on page XXX so nobody has a reason not to join up.

Doug reminded us that last year we made out like bandits when the SW Horseman's Association paid us \$400 or so to manage parking for the rodeo, traditionally held during the first week of June. He will send out an email with details and a request for volunteers to assist in parking.

State BCH Conference Call. Mickey and Rawlings Lemon participated in a recent conference call of the New Mexico BCH chapter. They subsequently reported the activities thereof in a report emailed to Gila chapter members. As a convenience, that report is also attached here on page XXX. Mickey asked everybody to read the report and ask questions.

The most important item is that evidently somebody has been missing with the state web site and the state chapter now has a web master who is the only person who can post items there. She suggested that information about the NAN Ranch Ride would be appropriate content, so Vicki should send information about it up to the state.

The state organization's bylaws refer to the annual rendezvous, but apparently we're supposed to have a convention, not a rendezvous. So in 2017, members of NMBCH will have BOTH a rendezvous and a convention. Wahoo!

The Pecos BCH chapter has a member (name of Maryann) who has CPR training certification and will travel. Perhaps we can use her in the future; our CPR and first aid training are covered for this year.

Everybody in the chapter should fill out a letter in support of the Forest Lands Stewardship legislation now pending (see page XXX). Print out the letter, sign it, and return it to Mickey or Rawlings at the March 9 GBCH meeting. Suggestion: If you have a scanner, scan the signed letter and email it. The Lemon's email addresses are on your roster. If you don't have a roster, get one from Jean Hill.

The New Mexico legislature is considering a bill that would allocate funds to build a trail up the Rio Grande. Money is needed to purchase right-of-way for the trail.

The legislature also will conduct a hearing on Senate Memorial 11, which recognizes and honors the legacy of public lands in New Mexico. A copy of the bill appears on page XXX).

Senate Memorial 075 is under consideration by the 2016 NM Legislature. The bill mostly affects the northern part of the state and is another stab at the eternal battle by land-grant heirs to get their land back. If you're interested, you can find more information about the bill at <http://protectnewmexico.org/bills/negotiate-for-return-of-land-grants-3/>.

Trapping in the Forest. Gerry Engel warned that trapping is going on now in the national forest. The traps are set for small game and are likely not big enough to catch a horse's foot, but they could cause a spook. They could certainly snag a dog, so if you ride with dogs, you should carry a small rope to use as a muzzle so you can get a trapped dog out without getting chomped. Gerry also mused that it might be difficult to disarm the trap, so bring along C clamps in case you don't have the hand strength to open the trap. He added that generally a trap doesn't break a dog's leg, but can certainly interfere with enjoyment of a ride, so remember to keep an eye out if you're riding on game trails because you can't see the traps.

Trapping is allowed everywhere in the forest. Although trappers are supposed to keep traps away from trails, we all know how that goes.

Airborne Emergency Transport Insurance. Mara Miles asked for information about insurance to help defray the costs of medivac trips out of the forest. Doug replied that we considered this some time ago, but it's time to revisit the matter.

Action items

Person responsible

Send email containing information and volunteer request for upcoming rodeo parking	Doug Dexter
Send information about NAN Ranch Ride to the attention of the state BCH webmaster by email at mailto:backcountrynm@gmail.com	Vicki Dowd
Revisit medivac insurance	Doug Dexter
Meeting adjourned with the blessing of all.	

(bank statements available at meeting)

Bank Balance December 16, 2015 **\$2,909.24****Deposits**

\$ 30.40 interest & membership,

Withdrawals\$ 143.03 new check fee, reimburse Xmas party,
send BCH NM Rendezvous sales**Bank Balance January 18, 2016** **\$2,796.61**Transactions after January 18, 2016:

Deposits

\$ 520.00 Jan 50/50, 12 memberships, donation

Withdrawals

#1297 \$ 45.00 3 mos meeting room reimbursement

Membership:

2016 membership beg. January 40 members 16 families 6 singles.

Jan 9th 56 members 19 families 16 singles.Feb 11th 64 members 21 families 20 singles.

Dues to State & National for 21 families = \$588; for 20 singles = \$400, total = \$988

to be paid by end of March, 2016.

NATRC Income/Expenses Totals through February 10, 2016.

various \$ 580.00 Natrc income Ride Fees (4)

various \$ 390.00 Natrc income Donations (7)

various \$ 301.78 Natrc expenses--#1286,1294,1298,1300

Net: \$668.22 NATRC rider count is 4.

Southwest Horseman's Association

P.O. Box 586, Silver City, NM 88062

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The purpose of Southwest Horseman's Association is to maintain our western culture and heritage by producing civic events that provide education and promote rural life and agriculture, while cooperating with others in endeavors of common interest.

We appreciate your application for membership. Have you received a copy of the Southwest Horseman's Association By-laws? ___ Yes ___ No
This application is a new membership? _____ Renewal? _____

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Residence Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Business _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Date of Birth _____

I enclose my dues of \$15 for the current year (Dec. thru Nov.) I release Southwest Horseman's Association, it's officers and members from all responsibility for any injuries or accidents.

Date Signature of Applicant

New Applicants Complete The Following Information:

List 2 References:

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____
Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

I understand that my membership must be voted on at the next meeting of Southwest Horseman's Association.

Signature of Sponsor (Current SHA Member) _____

**Southwest Horseman's Association
Release of Liability**

It is understood and agreed that Southwest Horseman's Association, it's sponsors, officers and Board of Directors assume no liability whatsoever and are released of all liability and medical expenses due to my use of Southwest Horseman's Park and/or participation in any event held at Horseman's Park or held in conjunction with a club function.

I acknowledge that horse activities and rodeos are dangerous activities and that participation in such, as a member, a competitor, an independent contractor or volunteer, exposes the participant to a substantial and serious risk of property damage, personal injury and death. I acknowledge that participation in horse events or rodeos may involve such hazards.

In consideration of the acceptance of my participation, and being fully aware that participation in the exhibition, sports, contests or any part of Southwest Horseman's Association function, may result in serious property damage and/or personal injury or death. I hereby release the following from any and all liability for property damage, personal injury, death and all other claims which may arise from participation in Southwest Horseman's Association events or from any accident which may occur while riding on their property at Southwest Horseman's Park: Southwest Horseman's Association and their Officers, Board of Directors, volunteers, representatives, agents and assigns.

Furthermore, I, my spouse, dependents, representatives, heirs, successors and assigns shall not prosecute, directly or indirectly, now or at any time in the future, by action, suit or proceeding arising from any injury, loss or damage suffered by me or them, regardless of cause, against the before mentioned entities during the exhibition, sports contest or any other part of Southwest Horseman's Association events or use of their property at Southwest Horseman's Park.

I have read and I agree to accept the conditions of this contract.

Signature

Guardian Signature if participant under 18

Participants Name (Printed)

Address

City, State, Zip

BCHNM CONFERENCE CALL NOTES

FEBRUARY 11, 2016

New State President Dan Keys decided to have a conference call with the state board between quarterly meetings in order to clear some items off the quarterly state agenda to shorten the meetings. All chapters were represented on the call except the Santa Fe Chapter.

A correction was made to the minutes from the state January meeting. The NAN Ranch ride was referenced as an endurance ride and it was corrected to a competitive trail ride.

The Pecos Chapter expressed an interest in more information about the NAN Ranch ride. They were referred to the NATRC website.

We were told SM11 did pass the Conservation Committee so it may be headed to a full floor vote in the NM State Legislature. This was the bill that honors NM public lands legacy and can be used in the fight to keep public lands open.

Dan Keys gave us a heads up as to what will be covered at the March quarterly meeting. Among other things: State dues increase and insurance changes. An insurance rep will give a presentation and answer questions.

A By-Laws committee of 3 was selected to look over the by-laws and make corrections and changes.

Randy Rasmussen of BCHA has asked for favorite trails on BLM lands. That information with what is needed for recommending a favorite trail will be sent in a separate e-mail. These need to be submitted to Randy by February 19.

The next quarterly state meeting will be held at the visitor center conference room at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge between Socorro and Belen at 12:00 noon on March 19.

Santa Fe, Pecos, NW and Socorro chapters will man a BCHNM booth at the NM Outdoor Expo held in Santa Fe February 19-21.

First quarter dues are due by March 31.

Each chapter was asked to submit their web contacts to webmaster Jon Bruch. **It was noted that the Gila Chapter has already done that!! Thanks Ted for making us look good!**

The conference call lasted 55 minutes!

Date _____

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: S. 1110 – THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM TRAILS STEWARDSHIP ACT

Dear Senators Udall and Heinrich,

I am writing to express my support for S. 1110, the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act, sponsored by Senators Michael Enzi and Michael Bennet, and I urge you to co-sponsor this important legislation.

Across the United States, National Forests provide world class recreational opportunities. Access to many of these wonderful lands would not be possible without adequate trails. For many years now, the Forest Service's trail system has been declining. Only a quarter of the trails are maintained to Forest Service standards and the agency is facing a maintenance backlog of more than \$500 million. Failing to address the trail maintenance backlog will result in reduced public access to the backcountry, increase the potential to degrade our forest's natural resources and will accelerate future maintenance costs.

S. 1110 will help improve maintenance of our National Forest trail system by establishing a critical program that expands the use of volunteers and partner organizations that will assist in maintaining, clearing and repairing trails in our National Forest. This legislation will also ensure that the Forest Service will prioritize its trail maintenance work and the public will have a voice on which trails are most important to them.

This legislation will help outfitters and guides play an increased role in maintaining trails on public lands and it will study other ways to expand trail maintenance at no cost to the Federal government. These solutions are vitally important, especially in an era of declining budgets where over 50% of the Forest Service budget is spent on forest fires and associated restoration.

Over 90 equestrian, sportsmen, conservation, motorized recreation, outfitters and guides, trails, and governmental organizations including the Western Governors' Association, National Association of Counties, America Outdoors Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Back County Horsemen of America, and The Wilderness Society support this legislation. The House of Representatives has 64 members that have co-sponsored this legislation and includes all three Representatives from New Mexico. So far, only six members of the Senate have signed on. This legislation has recently been titled the most bi-partisan bill in Congress and your voices and leadership in the Senate are needed to get this legislation passed in 2016.

Because of the important benefits this legislation will bring to New Mexico and forests all across the nation, I respectfully request that each of you co-sponsor this essential legislation.

Sincerely,

Sign Name: _____

Print Name: _____

Address: _____ State: _____

PHONE: _____ E-mail: _____

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 11

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 William P. Soules

5
6
7
8
9

10 A MEMORIAL

11 RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE PUBLIC LANDS LEGACY IN NEW
MEXICO.

12

13 WHEREAS, approximately twenty-six million acres of land in
14 New Mexico are owned by the people of the United States and
15 managed for the benefit of all citizens by federal public
land
16 management agencies; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexicans have the good fortune to live near
18 these federal public lands and to benefit from them
19 economically; and

20 WHEREAS, at least sixty-five percent of New Mexicans
21 participate in some form of outdoor recreation every year;
and

22 WHEREAS, the outdoor recreation economy in New Mexico
23 generates four hundred fifty-eight million dollars
24 (\$458,000,000) in tax revenue and six billion one hundred
25 million dollars (\$6,100,000,000) in consumer spending each

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~~underscored material = new~~
~~bracketed material = delete~~

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~~bracketed material = delete~~

1 year, while employing more than sixty-eight thousand people;

2 and

3 WHEREAS, healthy public lands with quality fishing,

4 hiking, cross-country skiing, camping and other recreational

5 resources are major factors in attracting new businesses and

6 jobs to New Mexico that might otherwise locate elsewhere; and

7 WHEREAS, preserving access to outdoor recreation on public

8 lands protects the economy, businesses, communities and people

9 of New Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, access to and use of large tracts of healthy,

11 viable, contiguous public lands are essential to the

12 perpetuation of traditional New Mexico land uses such as

13 hunting, fishing, grazing, firewood gathering and pinon nut and

14 herb gathering; and

15 WHEREAS, all of these activities have long been a part of

16 the traditional New Mexico lifestyle; and

17 WHEREAS, eighty-nine percent of New Mexico sportsmen and

18 sportswomen use public lands to hunt and fish; and

19 WHEREAS, hunters and anglers spend more than six hundred

20 thirteen million dollars (\$613,000,000) annually on

21 recreational activities in New Mexico, contributing more than

22 two hundred sixty-seven million dollars (\$267,000,000) in

23 salaries and wages and fifty-one million four hundred thousand

24 dollars (\$51,400,000) in state and local taxes while supporting

25 nearly eight thousand jobs; and

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underscored material = new
bracketed material = delete

1 WHEREAS, both the Enabling Act for New Mexico and the
2 constitution of New Mexico state that the "people inhabiting
3 this state do agree and declare that they forever disclaim
all
4 right and title to the unappropriated and ungranted public
5 lands lying within the boundaries thereof";
6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
7 OF NEW MEXICO that the nation's and New Mexico's founders'
8 foresight and wisdom be honored by protecting a public lands
9 legacy that is vital to the state and national economies and
to
10 the health and well-being of the residents of New Mexico;
and
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the United States secretary of the interior,
the
13 director of the United States bureau of land management, the
14 chief of the United States forest service, the governor and
New
15 Mexico's congressional delegation.

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