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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 15

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - 2ND SPECIAL SESSION, 2000**

INTRODUCED BY

Debbie A. Rodella

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE GAME COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH WITH THE  
FEDERAL LAND AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES CARRYING  
CAPACITIES AND HERD SIZE FOR ELK IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, wildlife is an important and desirable asset to  
all New Mexicans; and

WHEREAS, carrying capacity is the sustainable quantity  
and quality of forage available and not allocated to other  
uses; and

WHEREAS, overpopulation of elk can damage the  
agricultural and rural economy, the health of the herd and  
other wildlife and established local cultures of New Mexico;  
and

WHEREAS, rangeland, agricultural land and riparian areas  
are being degraded and damaged by overpopulations of elk  
throughout New Mexico; and

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WHEREAS, herd management should be conducted in areas where elk depredation and riparian damage cannot be controlled in any other way;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state game commission with the federal land and wildlife management agencies be requested to develop a strategic elk management plan that is based on elk quantity, quality of habitat and the established carrying capacity and includes provisions for all management options to manage and contain the elk herd population when necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state game commission strategic elk management plan be developed through a process that includes private landowners and sportsmen; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the state game commission and the regional directors of the United States forest service, fish and wildlife service and bureau of land management.