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HOUSE BILL 521

**47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006**

INTRODUCED BY

Manuel G.. Herrera

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT; CREATING THE ROADLESS AREAS REVIEW  
TASK FORCE; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--ROADLESS AREAS REVIEW  
TASK FORCE CREATED--MEMBERSHIP--APPOINTMENT.--

A. The "roadless areas review task force" is  
created. The task force shall function from the effective date  
of this act through November 15, 2006.

B. The roadless areas review task force shall be  
convened and chaired by the secretary of energy, minerals and  
natural resources or the secretary's designee, who may contract  
with a mediator or other third party to facilitate the duties  
of the task force. The secretary shall provide staff for the  
task force.

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1 C. The other twelve members of the task force shall  
2 be appointed as follows:

3 (1) the governor shall appoint eight members  
4 from areas of the state adjacent to or containing designated  
5 roadless areas, including:

6 (a) one person with expertise in fish  
7 and wildlife biology; and

8 (b) one representative each from a  
9 tribal or pueblo government, a county government, an off-  
10 highway recreational vehicle organization, an agricultural  
11 organization, a community land grant, an outfitters or guides  
12 organization and an environmental organization;

13 (2) the speaker of the house of  
14 representatives shall appoint two members; and

15 (3) the president pro tempore of the senate  
16 shall appoint two members.

17 D. The roadless areas review task force shall:

18 (1) by September 15, 2006, hold public  
19 meetings to review new federal forest service rules on  
20 designation of New Mexico roadless areas. The public meetings  
21 shall be held at the State Capitol and in Alamogordo, Carlsbad,  
22 Carrizozo, Espanola, Grants, Las Vegas, Lordsburg, Mountainair,  
23 Raton, Reserve, Silver City, Socorro, Springer and Taos;

24 (2) solicit and consider written and oral  
25 comments on federal rules regarding roadless area designation

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1 and conservation issued by the United States department of  
2 agriculture as a starting point for deliberations; and

3 (3) make formal recommendations by September  
4 30, 2006, each of which shall require the affirmative consent  
5 of eight members of the task force, to the governor for the  
6 governor's petition to the United States secretary of  
7 agriculture regarding conservation of areas designated as  
8 roadless areas by the United States department of agriculture.

9 E. The roadless areas review task force may  
10 recommend to the governor for inclusion in his petition, based  
11 on approval of eight members, boundary adjustments to federal  
12 roadless area conservation rules and designations and  
13 improvements to federal management of roadless areas.

14 Section 2. APPROPRIATION.--Five hundred thousand dollars  
15 (\$500,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the energy,  
16 minerals and natural resources department for expenditure in  
17 fiscal years 2006 and 2007 to accomplish the purposes of this  
18 act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the  
19 end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

20 Section 3. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public  
21 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.