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SENATE MEMORIAL 26

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE PARKS DIVISION OF THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
ACQUIRING LAND FOR A WILD HORSE STATE PARK.

WHEREAS, wild horses are part of New Mexico's living
heritage and history, but they are endangered and may become
extinct in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, like the buffalo, wild horses are emblematic of
the old west, and it is the image of wild horses running free
across the plains of the west that lives in the hearts and
minds of Americans; and

WHEREAS, the wild horse is part of New Mexico's
enchantment and essence and is an integral part of the Native
American, Hispanic, ranching and farming cultures of New
Mexico; and

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1 WHEREAS, tourism in New Mexico could increase by
2 attracting thousands of tourists from all over the world who
3 are intrigued by the history, culture and art of the American
4 west; and

5 WHEREAS, a wild horse state park could prompt local
6 economic development by drawing tourists into a region to see
7 nondomesticated horses in a natural setting; and

8 WHEREAS, a wild horse state park could link history and
9 culture to attract visitors; and

10 WHEREAS, a wild horse state park could serve as a valuable
11 resource for educational and youth-oriented organizations; and

12 WHEREAS, the federal Recreation and Public Purposes Act
13 provides that a state or state agency may acquire up to six
14 thousand four hundred acres of land annually for recreation
15 purposes at no cost; and

16 WHEREAS, there are no reliable data on the total number of
17 wild horses roaming in New Mexico; and

18 WHEREAS, there are wild horses under the management of the
19 United States forest service and the bureau of land management
20 within the United States department of the interior and on
21 state public, private and tribal lands; and

22 WHEREAS, the number of acres and the cost of maintaining
23 wild horses would depend on how much forage wild horses would
24 consume on a potential location and how much forage is
25 available;

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1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
2 OF NEW MEXICO that the state parks division of the energy,
3 minerals and natural resources department be requested to study
4 potential locations and the feasibility of acquiring land for a
5 wild horse state park; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division be
7 requested to propose a plan to quantify the number and location
8 of wild horses in New Mexico; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division be
10 requested to estimate the cost of maintaining wild horses for
11 potential locations on which to locate a wild horse state park;
12 and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division
14 present its findings and recommendations to the appropriate
15 interim legislative committees by November 1, 2019; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
18 resources and to the director of the state parks division.