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\_\_\_\_\_ JOINT MEMORIAL

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

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

A JOINT MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR CARSON NATIONAL FOREST PLAN REVISION  
ALTERNATIVE 3 AND EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO WILD AND SCENIC  
RIVER DESIGNATION FOR THE THREE FORKS OF THE RIO SANTA BARBARA,  
KNOWN AS "CR 31" WITHIN THE CARSON NATIONAL FOREST.

WHEREAS, for generations, small, rural and historically  
isolated communities in New Mexico have depended on the health  
of the surrounding forests, grasslands and rivers as their  
primary sources of water, fuel, food, medicine and building  
materials; and

WHEREAS, the health and safety of traditional forest-  
dependent, gateway and land grant communities remain dependent  
on the health of their surrounding lands, particularly with  
regard to the quantity and quality of water flowing from them  
and their susceptibility to catastrophic wildfire; and

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1           WHEREAS, in 2017, the legislature passed House Joint  
2 Memorial 3 that recognized the socioeconomic and cultural  
3 connections between traditional forest-dependent, gateway and  
4 land grant communities and adjacent national forest lands; and

5           WHEREAS, the Carson national forest is currently in the  
6 process of revising its forest plan; and

7           WHEREAS, some forest-dependent, gateway and land grant  
8 communities adjacent to the Carson national forest are  
9 conducting or developing projects designed to remove small-  
10 diameter timber from forest lands and improve watershed health;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, the Carson national forest has identified five  
13 alternatives for its revised forest plan, and alternative 3  
14 would maximize access and commodity use; and

15           WHEREAS, the forest plan revision process for the Carson  
16 national forest is examining whether to recommend to congress  
17 that the three forks of the Rio Santa Barbara, river segments  
18 designated as "CR 31", be given wild and scenic river status;  
19 and

20           WHEREAS, a wild and scenic river designation for CR 31 may  
21 limit management activities for adjacent lands, including a  
22 prohibition against mechanical removal of downed trees and  
23 other potential fire fuels; and

24           WHEREAS, La Merced de Santa Barbara, a land grant  
25 community established in the 1700s, has expressed a particular

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1 need for active management of CR 31 within the one and one-half  
2 mile segment between the Pecos wilderness and the Santa Barbara  
3 campground due to a historic pattern of fuel accumulation  
4 within that segment;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that support be expressed for Carson  
7 national forest plan revision alternative 3; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that opposition be expressed for  
9 the federal wild and scenic river designation of the portions  
10 of the Rio Santa Barbara designated as CR 31 in the Carson  
11 national forest's planning documents; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the regional forester for region 3 of the United  
14 States forest service, the forest supervisor for the Carson  
15 national forest and the members of the New Mexico congressional  
16 delegation.