

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE STATE PARKS DIVISION OF THE ENERGY, MINERALS
3 AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY
4 STUDY ON POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS INVOLVING MIMBRES CULTURE
5 SITES.

6
7 WHEREAS, the Mimbres people were the most significant
8 expression of the Mogollon culture, one of the three
9 prehistoric civilizations of the American southwest; and

10 WHEREAS, the Silver City area, including the Mimbres and
11 Gila River valleys, contains numerous Mimbres sites; and

12 WHEREAS, some of the Mimbres pueblos built during the
13 classic period of that culture in the eleventh century are
14 among the largest in the southwestern United States; and

15 WHEREAS, the Mimbres people developed sophisticated
16 canal irrigation technology; and

17 WHEREAS, the Mimbres culture is epitomized by
18 distinctive and strikingly painted black-on-white pottery
19 that is recognized as the consummation of several formal,
20 pictorial and iconographic prehistoric traditions in the
21 American southwest; and

22 WHEREAS, Mimbres pottery is internationally known and is
23 among the most famous prehistoric American art styles; and

24 WHEREAS, many Mimbres sites have been vandalized or
25 destroyed and the remaining sites are threatened by further

1 vandalism and illegal pot-hunting; and

2 WHEREAS, development of interpretive and visitor
3 education programs will help protect Mimbres sites and
4 enhance public understanding and appreciation of New Mexico's
5 cultural heritage; and

6 WHEREAS, a 1989 national park service study found the
7 Mimbres culture to be of national significance, stating,
8 "Even without Mimbres black-on-white pottery, the Mimbres
9 culture would be an extraordinary development in the
10 southwest...Mimbres sites probably represent the earliest
11 large, aggregated, pueblo-like settlements in the
12 southwest...and the Mimbres employed canal irrigation
13 apparently several centuries before the Anasazi"; and

14 WHEREAS, presently, the Mimbres culture is not the focus
15 of any state or national park; and

16 WHEREAS, the Mattocks site in Mimbres valley, recognized
17 since the 1880s as one of the most significant Mimbres sites,
18 has been acquired by the Silver City museum society for
19 development as an educational interpretive center, to be
20 known as the Mimbres culture heritage site; and

21 WHEREAS, the Mimbres culture heritage site is located
22 along the trail of the Mountain Spirits, a state and
23 federally designated scenic byway, on the route between the
24 City of Rocks state park and the Gila cliff dwellings
25 national monument; and

