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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT, THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY'S RANGE IMPROVEMENT TASK FORCE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH TO COOPERATE IN CONDUCTING A STUDY ON OFF-ROAD MOTORIZED VEHICLE USE.

WHEREAS, there is not a New Mexico centralized, organized database on which to assess and compare the economic, social, historic, cultural, archaeological and environmental contributions and impacts of non-motorized outdoor recreation, including hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, bird watching, mountain biking, archaeological exploration, natural resources education, agriculture and ranching with motorized recreation; and

WHEREAS, other state studies have found that motorized recreation is negatively impacting non-motorized recreation that results in significant costly consequences; and

WHEREAS, in order for state and local governments to appropriately and adequately address both management problems and solutions, it is essential to have factual and science-based information to make the most prudent choices for expenditure of revenues both in the immediate future and the

1 long run; and

2 WHEREAS, there are many sources of information on the  
3 economic benefits and costs of both non-motorized and  
4 motorized off-road vehicle recreation, but there is not any  
5 New Mexico study that has assimilated, analyzed and  
6 summarized that information in a central study or created an  
7 economic, cultural, social, archaeological and environmental  
8 matrix for all recreation users that could serve policymakers  
9 and land managers to guide decisions; and

10 WHEREAS, goals of sound recreation policy should ensure  
11 that income produced from all forms of outdoor recreation  
12 exceeds the cost to the public to allow, support and maintain  
13 it, and the state's natural, cultural, social, historic and  
14 archaeological resources will be protected for use by future  
15 generations;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the energy, minerals and natural  
18 resources department, the tourism department, the New Mexico  
19 department of agriculture, New Mexico state university's  
20 range improvement task force and the department of game and  
21 fish be requested to cooperate with other state agencies to  
22 conduct a study and recommend actions to resolve user  
23 conflicts, prevent future resource damage and provide greater  
24 safety protections for motorized recreation users; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include a

1 compilation and summary of studies done in other states and  
2 regions whose data and recommendations are applicable to New  
3 Mexico; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study identify  
5 enforcement, monitoring, restoration, institutional and  
6 information needs, cost-benefit comparison of motorized and  
7 non-motorized recreationists and an inventory of private,  
8 federal and state off-road vehicle parks in New Mexico; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include  
10 recommendations on what measures need to be in place for the  
11 public to have access to statistical information on off-road  
12 vehicle accidents, including their locations, types of  
13 injuries, incidents, if any, of broken laws and, if required,  
14 whether protective gear was worn at the time of injury; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and  
16 natural resources department and the department of game and  
17 fish report their findings and recommendations to the  
18 governor and the appropriate interim committee of the  
19 legislature by December 31, 2008; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural  
22 resources, the secretary of tourism, the director of the New  
23 Mexico department of agriculture, the chair of New Mexico  
24 state university's range improvement task force and the  
25 director of the department of game and fish.