

1 A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

13 WHEREAS, the wild horse is part of New Mexico's
14 enchantment and essence and is an integral part of the
15 Indian, Hispanic, ranching and farming cultures of New
16 Mexico; and

17 WHEREAS, there are several herds of wild horses
18 reintroduced into New Mexico that range freely on lands owned
19 by the federal bureau of land management in Sandoval county
20 near the village of Placitas; and

21 WHEREAS, although tourism is the second-largest industry
22 in the state, tourism in New Mexico could increase by
23 attracting thousands of tourists from all over the world who
24 are intrigued by the history, culture and art of the American
25 west; and

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

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

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

9 WHEREAS, a partnership between the state and the federal
10 government to protect, manage and promote several of the
11 remaining wild horse herds in Sandoval county through the
12 establishment of a wild horse state park would promote a
13 national legacy with great cultural significance and would
14 increase tourism revenues in the area of Sandoval county; and

15 WHEREAS, the federal bureau of land management will be
16 updating the resource management plan for five thousand acres
17 under its jurisdiction located in Sandoval county, which
18 update may provide a unique opportunity for the creation of a
19 wild horse state park; and

20 WHEREAS, the federal Recreation and Public Purposes Act
21 of 1954 provides that a state or state agency may acquire up
22 to six thousand four hundred acres of land annually for
23 recreation purposes at no cost;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state parks division of the

1 energy, minerals and natural resources department be
2 requested to conduct a study of the feasibility of
3 establishing a wild horse state park located on five thousand
4 acres of land to be acquired from the federal bureau of land
5 management that will be accessible through the village of
6 Placitas in Sandoval county; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division
8 present its findings and recommendations to the appropriate
9 interim legislative committees by November 1, 2008; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
12 resources and to the director of the state parks division._____

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