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HOUSE MEMORIAL 45

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Matthew McQueen

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE FORESTRY DIVISION OF THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, IN COOPERATION WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH, TO SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES FOR
WATERSHED RESTORATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RIO GRANDE
CUTTHROAT TROUT.

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout was adopted as the
New Mexico state fish in 1955; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout was the first
North American trout discovered by European explorers in 1541,
when Francisco Vazquez de Coronado's army bivouacked at the
confluence of Glorieta creek and the Pecos river, and it is of
historical and cultural value; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout is native to the
cold mountain streams and lakes of northern New Mexico; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout is a dark olive
2 color with sparsely scattered black spots and derives its name
3 from the red streaks under its throat; and

4 WHEREAS, although the Rio Grande cutthroat trout is only
5 six to eight inches long, anglers like the fish for its
6 fighting spirit; and

7 WHEREAS, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout provides unique
8 sport fishing to New Mexico residents and out-of-state tourists
9 and is of economic value to the state; and

10 WHEREAS, more than one hundred sixty thousand New Mexico
11 resident and non-resident anglers spend two hundred sixty-eight
12 million dollars (\$268,000,000) a year on fishing-related
13 activities, according to a study conducted by the department of
14 game and fish; and

15 WHEREAS, all of the stocked Rio Grande cutthroat trout
16 come from the seven springs hatchery in Jemez Springs, which
17 raises nothing but genetically diverse, pure-strain fish for
18 restoration and recreation; and

19 WHEREAS, the department of game and fish and its partners
20 have enhanced or restored Rio Grande cutthroat trout in one
21 hundred twenty-seven streams that are open to public fishing,
22 and Rio Grande cutthroat trout now occupy about seven hundred
23 miles of stream habitat; and

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico residents, government officials and
25 agency professionals have worked diligently to avoid the need

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1 to list the Rio Grande cutthroat trout under the federal
2 Endangered Species Act of 1973; and

3 WHEREAS, highly functioning watersheds offer Rio Grande
4 cutthroat trout the greatest chance of thriving and surviving
5 in the wilderness; and

6 WHEREAS, highly functioning watersheds provide important
7 benefits to acequias, livestock growers and drinking water
8 security;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the forestry
11 division of the energy, minerals and natural resources
12 department and the department of game and fish be requested to
13 support opportunities to restore watersheds in which Rio Grande
14 cutthroat trout are found or those to which Rio Grande
15 cutthroat trout may be established; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of energy, minerals
18 and natural resources and the director of the department of
19 game and fish.