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SENATE MEMORIAL 38

**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

INTRODUCED BY

Jeff Steinborn and Nathan P. Small

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE PARKS DIVISION OF THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF  
ESTABLISHING BROAD CANYON RANCH AS A STATE PARK.

WHEREAS, Broad canyon ranch, located just twenty miles  
north of Las Cruces, New Mexico's second largest city, offers  
connectivity to expansive wild and open landscapes in the Organ  
mountains-Desert peaks national monument and access to rare and  
threatened Chihuahuan desert wetlands and riparian forests  
along a mile of the Rio Grande; and

WHEREAS, Broad canyon ranch was acquired by the state  
parks division of the energy, minerals and natural resources  
department in 2008 to establish a destination for outdoor  
education, for family outings and for wildlife lovers to  
explore the Rio Grande and Chihuahuan desert uplands; and

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1           WHEREAS, Broad canyon ranch includes seven hundred  
2 eighty-three deeded acres and four thousand eight hundred  
3 thirty-one acres of public and state land, with a possible one  
4 hundred nine acres that could be added through the land and  
5 water conservation fund; and

6           WHEREAS, although owned by the state parks division, Broad  
7 canyon ranch has never formally been designated a state park  
8 for public use and enjoyment; and

9           WHEREAS, New Mexico acknowledges that young people should  
10 have access to the outdoors, and New Mexico was the first to  
11 establish an outdoor equity grant program fund to expose more  
12 young people to the state's beautiful natural spaces; and

13           WHEREAS, Broad canyon ranch is adjacent to an already  
14 popular spot for hiking: Slot canyon, a part of the Organ  
15 mountains-Desert peaks national monument; and

16           WHEREAS, to access the monument, visitors must park on the  
17 highway right of way and cross state land; and

18           WHEREAS, creating an official state park at Broad canyon  
19 ranch would ensure safe public access to the rugged bluffs of  
20 Slot canyon and the Rio Grande corridor for visitors to  
21 southern New Mexico; and

22           WHEREAS, the state is authorized to acquire lands or  
23 interests in lands for state park or state recreational  
24 purposes by gift, donation, devise or purchase; and

25           WHEREAS, an important criterion in the development of a

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1 state park is the completion of a feasibility study, the first  
2 step in obtaining lands for the development of a state park;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
4 OF NEW MEXICO that the state parks division of the energy,  
5 minerals and natural resources department be requested to study  
6 the feasibility of establishing Broad canyon ranch as a state  
7 park; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division be  
9 requested to report its findings and recommendations to the  
10 interim legislative committee dealing with economic and rural  
11 development issues and other appropriate interim committees;  
12 and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
14 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural  
15 resources and the director of the state parks division.

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