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HOUSE MEMORIAL 23

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

GARY K. KING

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE TO IMPLEMENT BEST  
MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO RESTORE THE WATERSHEDS UNDER ITS  
JURISDICTION.

WHEREAS, water is a vital resource of the state of New  
Mexico; and

WHEREAS, historically those watersheds managed by the  
United States forest service once produced the most pristine and  
highest quality water; and

WHEREAS, the organic legislation that created the forest  
service mandates it to protect watersheds for the purpose of  
water production and delivery; and

WHEREAS, lands managed by forest service are producing only  
seventy percent of historic amounts of water due to past  
management practices; and

1           WHEREAS, a thirty percent increase of water from forest  
2 service lands would benefit the entire water system in the  
3 state; and

4           WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico has liability for the  
5 delivery of water to other entities for which it has incurred  
6 present and will incur future expenses; and

7           WHEREAS, numerous state agencies and departments are  
8 struggling with present and future shortages of water; and

9           WHEREAS, past management practices by the forest service  
10 have resulted in a dramatic loss of wildlife habitat leading to  
11 historic levels of depredation of private property; and

12           WHEREAS, the people and wildlife of the state of New Mexico  
13 would benefit from additional water gained through a change in  
14 the management of the watersheds by the forest service; and

15           WHEREAS, the forest service has incurred some measure of  
16 liability for the water problems of New Mexico because of past  
17 watershed management practices;

18           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United  
20 States forest service be requested to immediately implement best  
21 management practices to effect restoration of the watersheds;  
22 and

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation.

# State of New Mexico House of Representatives

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1997

March 15, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

Your AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE,  
to whom has been referred

HOUSE MEMORIAL 23

has had it under consideration and reports same with  
recommendation that it DO PASS.

Respectfully submitted,

---

G. X. McSherry, Chairman

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION, 1997

HAGC/HM 23

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Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Not Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against

Yes: 6

Excused: Garnenez, Johnson, Townsend

Absent: None

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