

Senator Jeff Bingaman  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

June 11, 2008

Dear Senator Bingaman:

I am writing to you ask for your immediate and timely action regarding the creation of the **Taos El Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation Area** and the adjacent proposed wilderness areas of Ute Mountain and San Antonio Mountain.

As you know, this part of our state includes some of the most spectacular scenery in New Mexico. The proposed NCA would encompass the San Antonio de Rio Colorado Land Grant. Our Land Grant continues to traditionally use the proposed NCA

The Community Land Grant of San Antonio del Rio Colorado **Supports** the conservation bill with the changes that protect the Land Grants. We hope that the Senator will continue to support the Land Grant issues in New Mexico. The Bill includes in Section 2 article 5 that Land Grant Communities be recognized within the proposed NCA; in Section 3 articles G and H including grazing, firewood and pinon gathering would not be diminished and Section 3 article E of the Management Plan shall be developed in consultation with the State, local, and tribal governmental entities, land grant communities. Section 5 General Provision article F states nothing in this act enlarges, diminishes, or otherwise modifies any treaty rights.

Important to consider, our existing uses such as grazing, wood gathering , pinon and herb gathering, hiking, hunting, camping, and fishing These activities would not be impacted by the creation of the NCA, but would be protected and encouraged the use. The northern New Mexico Land Grant communities who depend on this type of land use will enjoy the benefits of economic development through ecotourism if the area is enhanced by special designation.

Thank you for your support of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

**San Antonio del Rio Colorado Board of Trustees**

President Felipe Garcia Date: 6-11-08  
Vice President Arion Rael Date: 6-11-08  
Secretary/Treasurer Evelyn Loggers Date: 6-11-08  
Trustee Malaguez Rael Date: 6-11-08  
Trustee J. D. [Signature] Date: 6-11-08