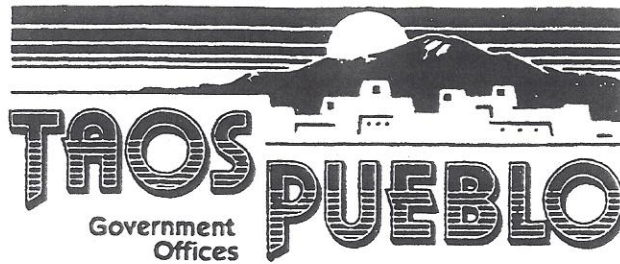


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JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2013 - 1

APPROVAL TO SUPPORT THE RIO GRANDE DEL NORTE PROPOSAL S. 667 and H.R. 1241 BY DESIGNATION OF A NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA OR PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT

Whereas, Taos Pueblo is a federally-recognized sovereign Tribal government with self governing powers and authority; and

Whereas, Taos Pueblo has maintained since time immemorial, a traditional Tribal Governmental structure that consists of the Tribal Council, the Warchief's Office and the Governor's Office; and

Whereas, the Taos Pueblo Government is responsible for providing guidance and direction for making decisions that reflect the values, customs and traditions of the Tribe, and maintains the responsibility to serve and protect its people and the community; and

Whereas, the proposed Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation Area / National Monument in Taos and Rio Arriba Counties is an area of extraordinary environmental, economic, cultural and recreational value; and

Whereas, this legislation would designate 235,980 acres of public land in and around Taos and Rio Arriba Counties as a National Conservation Area or National Monument to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management; and

Whereas, the Rio Grande del Norte area includes two proposed wilderness areas: 8,000 acre Rio San Antonio Wilderness and the 13,420 acre Cerro del Yuta Wilderness; and

Whereas, the people of Taos Pueblo have for centuries been important Earth stewards honoring the interconnection of all life in the Rio Gorge and surrounding plateau and mesas; and

Whereas the Rio Grande del Norte area includes the upper reaches of the Rio Grande Gorge, previously designated as a Wild and Scenic River, and protects bighorn sheep habitat, river otter habitat, antelope, deer and elk wintering grounds and migratory corridors for wildlife including neo-tropical migratory song birds and birds of prey such eagles, falcons and hawks; and

Whereas, outdoor recreation and other uses of the public lands of Taos and Rio Arriba Counties are a vital part of the local economy; and

Whereas, designating these public lands as a National Conservation Area or National Monument would better protect their scenic, ecological, economic, cultural and recreation values in perpetuity from the adverse effects of future development; and

Whereas, traditional uses of the public lands, including piñon picking, firewood collection and grazing will be preserved by the Conservation Area; and

Whereas, the Conservation Area or National Monument will be included as a unit of the National Landscape Conservation System making it eligible for additional funding that may be used for restoration projects; and

Whereas, the Conservation Area or National Monument will ensure that these public lands will be conserved and enhanced for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations of all species; and

Whereas, a presidentially proclaimed National Monument would have very similar management and continue to be under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management while providing the same benefits listed above; and

Whereas, the Antiquities Act provides the President of the United States the authority to proclaim areas of federal public land as National Monuments and this authority could be used to create a Rio Grande del Norte National Monument;

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED Taos Pueblo in the strongest terms supports federal protection of the lands contained within Rio Grande del Norte Proposal through a legislated National Conservation Area or a presidentially proclaimed National Monument in order to protect its scenic, cultural, environmental, economic, and recreational values.

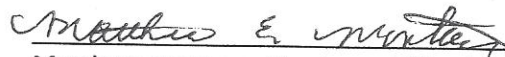
Certification

The forgoing resolution "Approval to Support The Rio Grande del Norte Proposal S.667 and H.1241 by designation as a National Conservation Area or Presidential Proclamation as a National Monument" was adopted at a duly called meeting of the Taos Pueblo Governor's Office and Taos Pueblo Warchief's Office respectively on the 14th day of January 2013.


Ernesto C. Luhan, Taos Pueblo Governor


Samuel G. Gomez, Taos Pueblo Warchief


Curtis D. Sandoval, Lieutenant Governor


Matthew Montoya, Lieutenant Warchief

ATTEST:


Clyde M. Romero, Jr., Tribal Secretary


David Winters, Warchief Secretary