



**County of Taos**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-13**

**Endorsing the permanent protection of the Rio Grande Del Norte Proposal  
through the enactment of legislation as a *National Conservation Area* or  
presidential proclamation as a *National Monument***

**Whereas**, legislation has been introduced in Congress and approved by the US Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to designate the Rio Grande Del Norte National Conservation Area in Taos County; and

**Whereas**, this is an area of extraordinary scenic, environmental, economic, cultural, and recreational value; and

**Whereas**, this legislation would designate 235,980 acres of public land in and around Taos County as a National Conservation Area to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management (NCA); and

**Whereas**, the Conservation Area includes two wilderness areas – the 8,000 - acre Rio San Antonio Wilderness and the 13,420-acre Cerro del Yuta Wilderness; and

**Whereas**, the Conservation Area includes the upper reaches of the Rio Grande Gorge, previously designated as a Wild and Scenic River, and protects elk wintering grounds and a migratory corridor for wildlife including birds of prey; and

**Whereas**, visitors and residents of Taos County today enjoy these public lands for hiking, camping, river rafting, photography, mountain climbing, grazing, hunting, fishing, bird watching, skiing, pinon picking, firewood collection, scenic enjoyment and other uses; and

**Whereas**, recreation and other uses of the public lands of Taos County are a vital part of the economy; and

**Whereas**, permanently protecting these public lands would better protect their scenic, ecological, economic, cultural, and recreational values in perpetuity from the adverse effects of future development; and

**Whereas**, a Conservation Area or National Monument designation furthers the goals of the Taos County Growth Management Plan; and

**Whereas**, a 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 grassland restoration projects; and

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

**Whereas**, should Congress fail to act on this widely supported legislation 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE TAOS COUNTY COMMISSION that the Commission strongly supports protection for 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, environmental, economic, and recreational values.

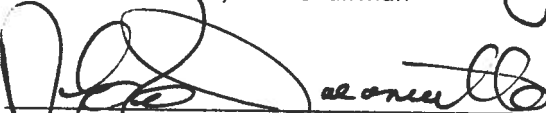
TAOS COUNTY  
 ELAINE S. MONTAÑO, CLERK  
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 BY DOLores

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS, 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2012

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
 OF TAOS COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

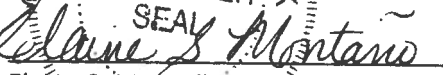
  
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 Joe M. Duran, Chairman

  
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 Andrew D. Chavez, Vice-Chairman

  
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 Nicholas E. Jaramillo, Commissioner

  
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 Larry Sanchez, Commissioner

  
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 Daniel R. Barrone, Commissioner

ATTEST  
 TAOS COUNTY CLERK  
 RECORDER  
 SEAL  
  
 Elaine S. Montano, County Clerk  
 TAOS

Approved as to form

  
 Barbara A. Martinez, County Attorney

Vote Record:

J. Duran	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
A. Chavez	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
N. Jaramillo	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
L. Sanchez	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
D. Barrone	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No	Abstain	Absent

TAOS COUNTY CLERK  
 RECORDER  
 SEAL  
 TAOS