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Rio Grande del Norte Takes Flight with National Monument Designation

Audubon New Mexico Executive Director, Karyn Stockdale released the following statement upon the news today that President Obama plans to permanently protect the Rio Grande del Norte region of New Mexico, just west of Taos by designating it a National Monument on Monday:

“Today, the President has acknowledged the importance of the Rio Grande del Norte area to our nation’s biodiversity. Permanently protecting this Important Bird Area will ensure that critical migratory paths for iconic species like falcons and eagles will remain intact,” said Audubon New Mexico Executive Director Karyn Stockdale. “The Rio Grande Gorge is the lifeblood of a vibrant ecosystem and recreation economy that is absolutely critical to New Mexico’s way of life. Monday’s designation by President Obama will protect the interests of both wildlife and people, while ensuring a rich legacy for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.”

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Audubon New Mexico: As the state office of the National Audubon Society, Audubon New Mexico’s mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth’s biological diversity. <http://nm.audubon.org>.