



OLÉ Celebrates Rio Grande del Norte National Monument

*Grassroots group praises President Obama for protecting
New Mexico's culture and natural beauty*

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ALBUQUERQUE, NM (March 22, 2013) - The Organizers in the Land of Enchantment (OLÉ) today applauded President Barack Obama for announcing that he will designate Rio Grande del Norte in Taos and Rio Arriba counties as a National Monument. The National Monument will preserve lands used by New Mexicans to sustain their families through food, clean water, and a chance to experience the great outdoors.

"Rio Grande del Norte is not only a treasure in New Mexico and Colorado, but also for the whole country, and we are glad to see it being preserved and safe-guarded," said **OLÉ member Thane Padilla**. "Thank you, President Obama, for protecting this New Mexico gem for everyone to enjoy."

OLÉ, a member based organization committed to social and economic justice, recognizes that conservation of land, water, and wildlife are not only vital to New Mexicans' well-being but is also a social justice issue.

"We can't give up on a precious commodity like our land and water," said **member Veronica Saavedra**. "Access to safe water, clean air and preserved land are a human right. Protecting Rio Grande del Norte National Monument means that we are taking a step in the right direction toward conservation being a key issue in national policy."

Many OLÉ members in Albuquerque have been concerned about issues of water and the drought that has plagued the state. The Rio Grande del Norte National Monument is proof that communities who work hard to protect their land can succeed at doing so.

The Rio Grande del Norte National Monument will add roughly 240,000 acres to America's National Conservation Lands.

For more information about Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, please visit www.riograndedelnorte.org/media.

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OLÉ is a grassroots community organization of working families in New Mexico. Our members and staff work together to strengthen our communities through social advocacy and economic reform, using issue-based campaigns and electoral engagement to ensure that working families are playing a critical role in shaping New Mexico's future with a united voice. The breadth of our work is as wide as the range of issues that affect our communities.