



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Roadless Recreation Week is to recognize the recreational, environmental and economic values of America's national forest roadless areas; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that in 2009 there were 173.5 million recreation visits to the U.S. Forest System lands, with more than 57 percent of those visits primarily for physical activity, such as hiking, biking, and skiing; and

WHEREAS, the Outdoor Industry Association reports that the active outdoor recreation economy contributes \$730 billion to the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, recreation activities on national forests and grasslands sustain 223,000 jobs in rural communities within 50 miles of national forests and grasslands; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, roadless areas are among the most pristine lands of the national forest system, supporting more than 2,000 major watersheds that provide drinking water for 60 million Americans, and playing a key role in maintaining clean air and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, issued in 2001 to protect 58.5 million acres of national forest roadless areas, is one of the most popular federal policies ever developed following years of scientific review, hundreds of public meetings across the country and a record number of favorable public comments; and

WHEREAS, there are 1.6 million acres of protected national forest roadless areas in New Mexico, including, Valle Vidal, Columbine Hondo, Magdalena Mountains, Gila National Forest, El Rio Grande del Norte and the Pecos Wilderness;

NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim August 7-15, 2010 as:

"Roadless Recreation Week"

throughout the State of New Mexico and call upon the residents to observe and participate in this week with appreciation for America's national forest roadless areas and their recreational, environmental and economic values.

Attest:

Mary Herrera
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
3rd day of August, 2010.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the Great State of New Mexico

Bill Richardson
Governor

