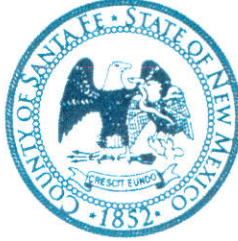


Henry P. Roybal
Commissioner, District 1

Anna Hansen
Commissioner, District 2

Rudy N. Garcia
Commissioner, District 3



Anna T. Hamilton
Commissioner, District 4

Ed Moreno
Commissioner, District 5

Katherine Miller
County Manager

Memorandum

Date: February 11, 2020

To: Board of County Commissioners

Via: Katherine Miller, County Manager

From: Anna T. Hamilton, Santa Fe County Commissioner, District 4
Anna Hansen, Santa Fe County Commissioner, District 2

Subject: Resolution No. 2020 - ____, A Resolution Supporting House Bill 223 – The Agricultural & Natural Resources Trust Act (Commissioner Hamilton and Commissioner Hansen)

SUMMARY

This resolution expresses Santa Fe County's support for a state trust fund for the purpose of funding restoration and conservation efforts on public, private, and tribal lands across New Mexico in order to protect the lands and waters for current and future generations.

BACKGROUND

The Agriculture and Natural Resource Trust Fund Bill (House Bill 223) is being championed by a diverse coalition of agricultural and conservation groups from across New Mexico who believe the future vitality of our lands and waters, and the future health of our biotic community is dependent on a collaborative approach by both the agricultural community and conservation community.

They are proposing to create a permanent endowment trust fund at the state level which will fund on-the-ground restoration and conservation and provide a match for bringing federal funding into New Mexico. In addition, they would like to create a board representing different regions within the state and different areas of expertise to evaluate, rank and select projects, and to periodically submit progress reports back to the Governor and Legislature. More information is included in the attachment.

ACTION REQUESTED

Commissioner Hamilton and Commissioner Hansen respectfully request the Board of County Commissioners support and approve this item.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 15

Introduced by:

Commissioner Anna Hamilton

Commissioner Anna Hansen

A RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 223,
THE AGRICULTURAL & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST ACT

WHEREAS, New Mexico's land, water and wildlife resources are vital to the state's economy including but not limited to agriculture, tourism, energy production, urban development, and outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's land, water and wildlife face multiple threats, including drought, fire, soil erosion, invasive species, and development; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is facing increasing water shortages; and

WHEREAS, habitat loss is accelerating the decline of many wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County's land, water, and wildlife face the same threats as those faced across the State; and

WHEREAS, the vitality of our natural resources is fundamental to the economic vitality, public health and quality of life in Santa Fe County; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to conserve and care for the resources that sustain human populations including land, water, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, current surplus revenues resulting from energy development present a unique opportunity to invest long term in these vital resources; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a trust fund to conserve and enhance land, water and wildlife enables the state to strengthen the general reserve while directing interest from the trust to projects that benefit all New Mexicans now and in the future; and

SFC CLERK RECORDED 02/12/2020

WHEREAS, investments in conserving, restoring and enhancing natural resources support new and existing jobs; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's future, including that of Santa Fe County, depends on the availability and condition of its land and water; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners passed three Resolutions (2014-66, 2015-126, and 2018-104), urging the New Mexico Congressional delegation to pass a bipartisan agreement for full funding and permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution 2019-144, urging Congress to adopt the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2019, and supporting the Santa Fe National Forest to Adopt and Establish the Caja del Rio Wildlife and Cultural Interpretative Management Area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County, hereby:

1. Supports House Bill 223, the Agricultural & Natural Resources Trust Act and calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to pass this legislation in the Second Session of the 54th Legislature.
2. Requests that the County Manager's Office forward a copy of this Resolution to the State Delegation.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 11th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**


Henry P. Roybal, Chair

SFC CLERK RECORDED 02/12/2020

ATTEST:

Geraldine Salazar
Geraldine Salazar
Santa Fe County Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Roger Puentes for
Gregory S. Shaffer
Santa Fe County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
PAGES: 4

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 12TH Day Of February, 2020 at 09:07:07 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1909033
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy *Estrella Martinez*)
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office)
Geraldine Salazar)
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM)

SFC CLERK RECORDED 02/12/2020

New Mexico Agriculture & Natural Resources Trust Fund

Funding the Future of New Mexico

Problem

New Mexico's *land and water* form the foundation of our communities, and yet without investing in both, we risk our future and that of our children.

1. Our ancient acequias, water systems and watersheds face grave uncertainty under volatile climate scenarios;
2. New Mexico's land base faces drought, soil erosion and lost productivity, while our forests grow increasingly vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire;
3. New Mexico loses an average of 50,000 acres of undeveloped land per year, threatening the future of our agricultural way of life, and resulting in increased habitat fragmentation for our states' wildlife.
4. Residential, commercial and energy development decreases available agricultural lands, increases wildlife habitat fragmentation and increases the need for restoration;
5. Two of New Mexico's most important economic sectors, agriculture (\$10 billion) and outdoor recreation/ecotourism (\$1 billion) are threatened by these impacts;
6. Our rural economies struggle to sustain vibrant communities, yet programs in similar states resulted in 15-24 local jobs created for ever 1 million spent.
7. New Mexico could be capitalizing on millions of dollars of available Federal funding simply through the availability of state matching funds.

Vision

We seek to sustain and enhance New Mexico's agricultural and natural heritage through stewardship, conservation and restoration of our forests, grasslands and watersheds; to provide for wildlife populations and habitats; and to ensure the continuation of agricultural production on working farms and ranches.

Need

New Mexico needs to invest in its land and water resources in order to ensure the integrity and sustainability of our water supply, wildlife, agriculture, and wide-open spaces – all of which comprise our incredible and unique natural and cultural heritage recognized nationally and worldwide.

Opportunity

Given the record high revenue surpluses New Mexico is projected to enjoy, we have a limited window within which to take steps to conserve and restore high priority landscapes, watersheds and resources that sustain our state. Surpluses will not last forever, now is the time to invest in the conservation and restoration of our natural resources. It is estimated that at least 20 to 30 million dollars annually can be leveraged with the State's investment, a 6:1 match ratio.

