

SANTA FE COUNTY

Resolution No. 2009-7

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE SAFETY BOARD TO DEDICATE A PERCENTAGE OF THE BUDGET FROM OHV REGISTRATION FEES TO REPAIR, MAINTAIN AND CLOSE EXISTING TRAILS AND TO PROVIDE USER EDUCATION; AND TO EXERT THE ENERGY REQUIRED TO CREATE POSITIVE CHANGE BY FUNDING ENFORCEMENT RANGERS GREATLY NEEDED THROUGH NEW MEXICO FOR PUBLIC LAND SAFETY AND PROTECTION

WHEREAS, many off-highway vehicle (OHV) drivers are responsible operators; however, there is a growing number of reckless riders who are damaging private property, wildlife habitat and cultural resources. Moreover, the range and ability of OHV's to access remote public lands have resulted in serious physical injuries, helped to spread noxious and invasive weeds, and some OHV use has resulted in conflicts with other recreational users, ranchers, hunters, wildlife and have caused damage to public and private land; and

WHEREAS, promoting better management of OHV use, reducing conflicts with other users and minimizing the soil, watershed, wildlife and habitat impacts from OHV's will protect the health of our lands while continuing to protect access and provide for recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, quiet recreation in New Mexico, including hiking, bicycling, camping, fishing, hunting, paddling, snow sports and wildlife viewing contributes \$3.8 billion dollars annually to New Mexico's economy; supports 47,000 jobs across New Mexico, generates \$184 million in annual state tax revenue and produces \$2.75 billion annually in retail sales and services across New Mexico accounting for 4.6% of gross state product; and

WHEREAS, among the duties of the New Mexico Off-Road Vehicle Safety Board is to enhance public awareness and enforcement of New Mexico OHV laws; develop criteria, review grant applications, promote public input and interagency cooperation to provide recommendations for establishing, restoring, or closing OHV areas or trails; and administering the registration fees budget; and

WHEREAS, we support the concerns stated by the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish urging the Forest Service to seek additional funding to maintain signage, add law enforcement personnel, increase funding for educational outreach to the public; and seek additional funding to implement physical road and trail closures which will facilitate natural restoration of ecologically damaged roads and trails caused by excessive motorized use,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Fe County Commission urges the NM Off-Road Vehicle Safety Board to dedicate a % of the budget from OHV registration fees to repair, maintain and close existing trails, and to provide education; and to exert the energy required to create positive change by funding Enforcement Rangers greatly needed throughout New Mexico for public lands safety and protection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Santa Fe County Commission encourages federal land management agencies to advance collaborative OHV management with local government, law enforcement and community groups through a federal grants program to fund OHV-related habitat restoration, trail signage, education and enforcement. By providing sufficient resources to local communities for cooperative management and enforcement, we can protect access for responsible OHV riders, while ensuring our natural heritage is available for future generations to enjoy.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND PASSED, ON THIS DAY JANUARY 27, 2009

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Michael Anaya
Michael Anaya, Chairman
Commissioner, District III

ATTEST: *Valerie Espinoza*
Valerie Espinoza, County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Stephen C. Ross
Stephen C. Ross, County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 27TH Day Of January, 2009 at 03:20:58 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1550351
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Valerie Espinoza
Deputy _____
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM