

S 874

Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation Area Establishment Act

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Apr 23, 2009

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 285.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 285. (Mar 2, 2010)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/874>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [D-NM]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NM • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM] | D · NM | | Apr 23, 2009 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|--|---------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Energy and Natural Resources Committee | Senate | Hearings By (subcommittee) | Jun 17, 2009 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|--------------|---|
| 111 HR 5334 | Related bill | May 21, 2010: Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. |

Rio Grande Del Norte National Conservation Area Establishment Act - Establishes Rio Grande Del Norte National Conservation Area in New Mexico, consisting of approximately 235,980 acres of public land in Taos and Rio Arriba Counties for the purposes of conserving, protecting, and enhancing for the cultural, archaeological, natural, ecological, geological, historical, wildlife, educational, recreational, and scenic resources of such Conservation Area.

Sets forth requirements for the management of the Conservation Area regarding the use of motorized vehicles and new roads, grazing, collection of pine nuts and firewood for noncommercial use, and utility right-of-way upgrades.

Requires the Secretary to ensure the protection of religious and cultural sites and to provide occasional access to them by tribal members for traditional cultural and customary uses.

Requires the Secretary to develop a management plan for the Conservation Area. Makes any acquired land within the boundary of the Conservation Area part of such Area.

Bars the changing of the management status of any area within the boundary of the Conservation Area that is: (1) designated as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; or (2) managed as an area of critical environmental concern.

Designates the Cerro Del Yuta Wilderness and Rio San Antonio Wilderness as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Makes any acquired land or interests within the boundary of the wilderness areas part of the area in which the land is located. Sets forth requirements for the management of the wilderness areas regarding livestock grazing, protective perimeters and buffer zones, and activities and uses conducted outside the wilderness areas.

Releases the public land within the San Antonio Wilderness Study Area not designated as wilderness from further study for designation as wilderness.

Requires the Conservation Area and the wilderness areas designated by this Act to be administered as components of the National Landscape Conservation System.

Specifies this Act's effect on fish and wildlife located on public land in New Mexico.

Withdraws federal land within the Conservation Area and the Wilderness designated by this Act, including any acquired land and interests, from: (1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and (3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

Prohibits anything in this Act from enlarging, diminishing, or otherwise modifying any treaty rights.

Authorizes appropriations.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 2, 2010:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Reported by Senator Bingaman with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 111-135.
- **Mar 2, 2010:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 285.
- **Dec 16, 2009:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jun 17, 2009:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests. Hearings held. With printed Hearing: S.Hrg. 111-65.
- **Apr 23, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 23, 2009:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S4674-4675)
- **Apr 23, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (text of measure as introduced: CR S4675-4676)