

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD -- EXTENSIONS

110th Congress, 1st Session

153 Cong Rec E 1243

SABINOSO **WILDERNESS** ACT OF 2007

June 11, 2007

REFERENCE: Vol. 153, No. 93

SECTION: Extension of Remarks

SPEAKER: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico

TEXT: [*1243]

Page 1243

HON. TOM UDALL

of new mexico

in the house of representatives

Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Sabinoso **Wilderness** Act of 2007. New Mexico is filled with extraordinary landscapes and, as a representative of this beautiful State, it is an honor to work to conserve these scenic and historic areas for future generations. One of New Mexico's special places is the Sabinoso **Wilderness** Study Area. Last year, I had the opportunity to explore this unique area on horseback. While traveling through deep canyons covered with indigenous trees such as piñon-juniper, cottonwood, willow, and ponderosa pine, it was evident that Sabinoso is an exceptional setting that deserves to be protected and accessible to all. That is why I am introducing legislation to designate as **wilderness** the lands in and near the Sabinoso WSA.

The Sabinoso WSA comprises approximately 20,000 acres and is situated in San Miguel County, 40 miles east of Las Vegas, NM, and 25 miles northwest of Conchas Dam State Park. Roaming the canyons last year, I was struck by the ecological, scenic and recreational values of the area. Sabinoso overlays a thick section of colorful sedimentary rocks, typical of desert rock formations throughout the West. The area's scenic and densely vegetated landscape is also home to a rich diversity of wildlife, such as red-tailed hawks, western scrub-jays, broad-tailed hummingbirds, mule deer, bobcats, and gray foxes. All of these natural resources will provide outstanding opportunities to hunt, hike, horseback ride, take photographs, and simply experience the unspoiled lands of our ancestors.

During the 2007 session of the New Mexico State Legislature, House Memorial 53, which calls on the New Mexico congressional delegation to support the establishment of the Sabinoso **Wilderness** Area, was introduced by State Representative Thomas Garcia and passed unanimously by a vote of 66-0.

Unfortunately, this beautiful piece of land is currently inaccessible to the general public. Designating the area will help open it to everyone and provide access to all of these activities. Opening Sabinoso will also create important new economic development opportunities for the surrounding communities. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation and creating the Sabinoso **Wilderness** Area so that everyone will be able to experience its natural and unique beauty for generations to come.