

New Mexico's Great Outdoors Week  
August 20 - 28, 2011

BY THE QUESTA VILLAGE COUNCIL OF TAOS COUNTY

A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, August 20 -28 has been established as "New Mexico's Great Outdoors Week"; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of New Mexico's Great Outdoors Week is to recognize the recreational, environmental and economic values of America's public lands and roadless national forests; and

**WHEREAS**, industrial activities like mining, logging and drilling are already allowed in more than half our national forests and other public lands; and

**WHEREAS**, legislation being considered in Congress would remove current protections for more than 60 million acres of public lands - an area the size of Wyoming - ignoring the important roll these places play for outdoor recreation, water and wildlife; 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 play a key role in maintaining clean air and wildlife habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, many communities in northern New Mexico depend on hundreds of miles of Acequia irrigation systems that originate in road less national forests and are the life blood of rural villages that produce food for their families, livestock, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that in 2009 there were 173.5 million recreation visits to 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 \$3.8 billion annually to New Mexico's economy, supports 47,000 jobs across the state, generates \$184 million in annual state tax revenue, and produces \$2.75 billion annually in retail sales and services across New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, there are 22.9 million acres of total public lands in New Mexico, including the Valle Vidal, Rio Grande del Norte, Latir Wilderness Wheeler Peak Wilderness and the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness Study Area;

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF QUESTA, NEW MEXICO**, do hereby proclaim August 20 - 28,2011 as "**NEW MEXICO'S GREAT OUTDOORS WEEK**" in TAOS COUNTY and call

•  
upon the residents to observe and participate in this week with appreciation for America's  
immeasurable public lands.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Esther Garcia", is written over a horizontal line.

M  
AYOR, VILLAGE OF QUESTA