

**COUNTY MANAGER**

Stanton L. Riggs

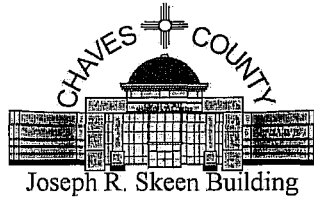
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**COMMISSIONERS**

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|-------------------------|---|------------|
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September 18, 2014

Riggs, Stanton

**STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION OF DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS**

Chaves County strongly opposes the designation of any additional lands in New Mexico as "wilderness areas". In addition, we oppose any move, or any attempt, to classify any lands in New Mexico as "lands which contain wilderness characteristics". Chaves County, through Resolution R-14-044, which was unanimously passed by the Chaves County Board of Commissioners on September 18, 2014, adamantly oppose any further designations of wilderness areas or national monuments, unless approved by the county and state in which they are located.

Current and future designations of wilderness areas and national monuments have the potential to adversely affect a wide range of industrial and recreational activities. Such designations have restricted, limited or eliminated access to both renewable and non-renewable resources such as timber, oil, gas and coal, and livestock grazing, affecting our national security causing dependence on foreign nations for our transportation and food needs, as well as create an economic hardship.

New Mexico is blessed with natural resources and beautiful scenery. Any designation of "wilderness area" will result in these lands being cut off to the public. This serves no legitimate purpose.