

June 17, 2020

Representative Raul Grijalva, Chair
Representative Deb Haaland, Vice-Chair
US House of Representatives Natural Resource Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Vice-Chair Haaland:

I am writing on behalf of the Acequia de La Isla to express our full *support for H.R. 3682, Land Grand and Acequia Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act*. In New Mexico, acequias are a centuries-old institutions of water governance that continue to provide water that supports local agricultural economies and a rural way of life that is an important part of our state's cultural heritage. Acequias, also known as community ditches, provide water for farmers and ranchers in their respective communities with water that originates from mountain snowmelt through diversions structures and networks of irrigation ditches.

Numerous acequias originate in federal public lands that were formerly Spanish and Mexican community land grants. In the Carson, Cibola, Santa Fe, and Lincoln National Forests, acequia irrigation works pre-date designation of the United States Forest Service by many years. Acequias depend on access to their irrigation works, which mainly consist of irrigation diversions from mountain streams, to conduct maintenance, repairs, and maintenance, as well as to replace irrigation works as needed.

The Acequia De La Isla receives water from the Santa Fe National in Mora County. Maintaining the water supply infrastructure is important to farmers and over 100,000 campers and fishermen visitors to Morphy Lake Dam and Morphy Lake State Park. Fishing in Mora County contributes almost a million dollars in local labor income, \$431,000 in Annual State and Local Tax Revenue and \$215,000 in annual federal tax revenues based on a study conducted by the New Mexico Game and Fish Department in 2014.

H.R. 3682 (Rep. Ben Ray Lujan) acknowledges the significance of New Mexico's historic acequias and clarifies that special use permits are not required for routine maintenance and improvements. This is vital to acequias for their long-term viability since irrigation works need regular maintenance and improvements to ensure delivery of water for downstream irrigators to exercise their historic water rights which pre-date the establishment of the US Forest Service.

We fully support H.R. 3682 and we respectfully ask for your support in the National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee and in the June 18, 2020 hearing on US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Bills. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Harold J. Trujillo, President
Acequia de La Isla

Abeyta-Trujillo Acequia Association
PO Box 149
Abiquiu, New Mexico 87510

Representative Raul Grijalva, Chair
Representative Deb Haaland, Vice-Chair
US House of Representatives Natural Resource Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Vice-Chair Haaland:

I am writing on behalf of the Abeyta-Trujillo Acequia to express our full *support for H.R. 3682, Land Grand and Acequia Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act*. In New Mexico, acequias are centuries-old institutions of water governance that continue to provide water that supports local agricultural economies and a rural way of life that is an important part of our state's cultural heritage. Acequias, also known as community ditches, provide water for farmers and ranchers in their respective communities with water that originates from mountain snowmelt through diversions structures and networks of irrigation ditches.

Numerous acequias originate in federal public lands that were formerly Spanish and Mexican community land grants. In the Carson, Cibola, Santa Fe, and Lincoln National Forests, acequia irrigation works pre-date designation of the United States Forest Service by many years. Acequias depend on access to their irrigation works, which mainly consist of irrigation diversions from mountain streams, to conduct maintenance, repairs, and maintenance, as well as to replace irrigation works as needed.

Established in 1735, our Acequia is not large, supporting 24 families, but we depend on a river diversion that has been part of Carson National Forest since 1953. We have attempted to comply with USFS permit requirements, but have had to begin work before final Forest permit approval was completed in order to deliver irrigation water to our members in Spring. This situation has improved greatly in recent years, but we feel that our priority should be honored by the USFS and permit requirements waived.

H.R. 3682 (Rep. Ben Ray Lujan) acknowledges the significance of New Mexico's historic acequias and clarifies that special use permits are not required for routine maintenance and improvements. This is vital to acequias for their long-term viability since irrigation works need regular maintenance and improvements to ensure delivery of water for downstream irrigators to exercise their historic water rights which pre-date the establishment of the US Forest Service.

We fully support H.R. 3682 and we respectfully ask for your support in the National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee and in the June 18, 2020 hearing on US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Bills. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Seaman
Commissioner, Abeyta-Trujillo Acequia



ALAMOS DE LOS GALLEGOS
ACEQUIA ASSOCIATION



June 25, 2020

Representative Raul Grijalva, Chair
Representative Deb Haaland, Vice-Chair
US House of Representatives Natural Resource Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Vice-Chair Haaland:

I am writing on behalf of the Alamos de los Gallegos Acequia Association in solidarity with the acequias and the land grant community of Cañón de Carnué. Although we are in Albuquerque's North Valley, where our land grants were subsumed generations ago, we have many friends and colleagues in Carnuel, Tijeras, and San Antonio. They are a constant example and inspiration to us, and several of their acequias have their source in the Cíbola National Forest, which they predate by many generations. We also support *H.R. 3682, Land Grant and Acequia Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act*. In New Mexico, acequias are a centuries-old model of community governance of natural resources, a precious tradition and rarity in today's world.

H.R. 3682 (Rep. Ben Ray Luján) acknowledges the significance of New Mexico's historic acequias and clarifies that special use permits are not required for routine maintenance and improvements. This is vital to acequias for their long-term viability since irrigation works need regular maintenance and improvements to ensure delivery of water for downstream irrigators to exercise their historic water rights which pre-date the establishment of the US Forest Service.

We fully support H.R. 3682 and we respectfully ask for your support in the National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee and in the June 18, 2020 hearing on US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Bills. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Enrique Lamadrid

Enrique Lamadrid
Comisionado
Alamos de los Gallegos

Representative Raul Grijalva, Chair
Representative Deb Haaland, Vice-Chair
US House of Representatives Natural Resource Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Vice-Chair Haaland:

I am writing on behalf of the Jemez River Basin Coalition of Acequias to express our full *support for H.R. 3682, Land Grant and Acequia Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act*. In New Mexico, acequias are a centuries-old institutions of water governance that continue to provide water that supports local agricultural economies and a rural way of life that is an important part of our state's cultural heritage. Acequias, also known as community ditches, provide water for farmers and ranchers in their respective communities with water that originates from mountain snowmelt through diversions structures and networks of irrigation ditches.

Numerous acequias originate in federal public lands that were formerly Spanish and Mexican community land grants. In the Carson, Cibola, Santa Fe, and Lincoln National Forests, acequia irrigation works pre-date designation of the United States Forest Service by many years. Acequias depend on access to their irrigation works, which mainly consist of irrigation diversions from mountain streams, to conduct maintenance, repairs, and maintenance, as well as to replace irrigation works as needed.

There are sixteen (16) acequias including Native American diversions within the Jemez River Watershed. The origin of the acequias vary from historic, 1780 to 1865 and were originally located in the San Diego Land Grant established by the Queen of Spain and Native American reservations with the purpose of providing land for the settlers to have this land base for grazing, farming, harvest of wood products and all the numerous needs to establish communities and maintain their sustenance. Access for the many locations of these structures is essential. It has become an overwhelming problem to adhere to unnecessary requirements that the Forest Service finds necessary to impose on the descendants of the original settlers and Native Americans as original inhabitants of these lands.

H.R. 3682 (Rep. Ben Ray Lujan) acknowledges the significance of New Mexico's historic acequias and clarifies that special use permits are not required for routine maintenance and improvements. This is vital to acequias for their long-term viability since irrigation works need regular maintenance and improvements to ensure delivery of water for downstream irrigators to exercise their historic water rights which pre-date the establishment of the US Forest Service.

We fully support H.R. 3682 and we respectfully ask for your support in the National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee and in the June 18, 2020 hearing on US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Bills. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Gilbert M. Sandoval*

Chairman
Jemez River Basin Coalition of Acequias

Representative Raul Grijalva, Chair
Representative Deb Haaland, Vice-Chair
US House of Representatives Natural Resource Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Vice-Chair Haaland:

I am writing on behalf of Acequia de las Joyas (acequia name) to express our full *support for H.R. 3682, Land Grant and Acequia Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act*. In New Mexico, acequias are a centuries-old institutions of water governance that continue to provide water that supports local agricultural economies and a rural way of life that is an important part of our state's cultural heritage. Acequias, also known as community ditches, provide water for farmers and ranchers in their respective communities with water that originates from mountain snowmelt through diversions structures and networks of irrigation ditches.

Numerous acequias originate in federal public lands that were formerly Spanish and Mexican community land grants. In the Carson, Cibola, Santa Fe, and Lincoln National Forests, acequia irrigation works pre-date designation of the United States Forest Service by many years. Acequias depend on access to their irrigation works, which mainly consist of irrigation diversions from mountain streams, to conduct maintenance, repairs, and maintenance, as well as to replace irrigation works as needed.

(Optional) Insert one or more sentences here if your acequia originates in a National Forest and explain why you need access.

H.R. 3682 (Rep. Ben Ray Lujan) acknowledges the significance of New Mexico's historic acequias and clarifies that special use permits are not required for routine maintenance and improvements. This is vital to acequias for their long-term viability since irrigation works need regular maintenance and improvements to ensure delivery of water for downstream irrigators to exercise their historic water rights which pre-date the establishment of the US Forest Service.

We fully support H.R. 3682 and we respectfully ask for your support in the National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee and in the June 18, 2020 hearing on US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Bills. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Romero

Mayordormo

Acequia de las Joyas

Representative Raul Grijalva, Chair
Representative Deb Haaland, Vice-Chair
US House of Representatives Natural Resource Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Vice-Chair Haaland:

I am writing on behalf of Nacimiento Community Ditch Association-NCDA, to express our full *support for H.R. 3682, Land Grant and Acequia Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act*. In New Mexico, acequias are a centuries-old institutions of water governance that continue to provide water that supports local agricultural economies and a rural way of life that is an important part of our state's cultural heritage. Acequias, also known as community ditches, provide water for farmers and ranchers in their respective communities with water that originates from mountain snowmelt through diversions structures and networks of irrigation ditches.

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NCDA originates in the wilderness of the Santa Fe National Forest Service. The infrastructure consists of the San Gregorior Reservoir with a capacity of 257 acre feet of water, a three mile acequia/ditch with a diversion on the lower Rio de Las Vacas Creek, a diversion on Clear Creek and a trans mountain Acequia/ditch. The Trans Mountain acequia/ditch includes the Cajete Drop, a structure used to divert the water from the Trans Mountain acequia/ditch into the Nacimiento Creek canyon. The Forest Service has acknowledged our prior rights to conduct maintenance and/or repairs as our forefathers did prior to

H.R. 3682 (Rep. Ben Ray Lujan) acknowledges the significance of New Mexico's historic acequias and clarifies that special use permits are not required for routine maintenance and improvements. This is vital to acequias for their long-term viability since irrigation works need regular maintenance and improvements to ensure delivery of water for downstream irrigators to exercise their historic water rights which pre-date the establishment of the US Forest Service.

We fully support H.R. 3682 and we respectfully ask for your support in the National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee and in the June 18, 2020 hearing on US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Bills. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Martinez

Chairman

Nacimiento Community Ditch Association

Representative Raul Grijalva, Chair
Representative Deb Haaland, Vice-Chair
US House of Representatives Natural Resource Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Respected Vice-Chair Haaland:

June 20, 2020

By means of this short communication I wish to demonstrate support for *H.R. 3682, Land Grant and Acequia Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act*. I make my recommendation from a variety of perspectives and wish to indicate some key considerations.

As identified in the original documentation and the persuasive testimony provided on June 18 by Mr. Arturo Archuleta (New Mexico Land Grant Council & UNM Land Grant Studies) traditional land stewardship practices in New Mexico and Colorado are grounded in centuries-old tradition and local knowledge. Historically these are land-based communities that have witnessed a progressive alienation from traditional land-use behaviors that have anchored economic, cultural and spiritual foundations. These communities have depended upon commons-land resources for the subsistence and continuity of these historic homescapes. Deep-rooted place-identities have been nurtured with these community-based sustainable practices. The value systems that underlie these traditional practices are key to the cultural essence and community integrity of the indigenous/mestizo people. Access to resources and accompanying behaviors instill concepts of sustainable stewardship, cooperation and sharing. To disallow for these land-based behaviors is to equally extricate the land values that are key to community solvency and enfranchisement.

From the perspective, as a cultural studies educator, there are many lessons that can be drawn from a recognition and embrace of traditional -use communities. They demonstrate laudable values that can contribute to society, in general, particularly elements of society that have been distracted for land stewardship and environmental safeguards. Additionally, the identified practices of equitable resource sharing, community collaboration and practiced aesthetics are all inserted within traditional land-based practice.

Please consider that the recognition and facilitation of traditional public lands usage is not limited to a material or economic assessment of resource management. These historic practices reflect cultural identity, community cohesion and spiritual reverence. To continue the conversation between traditional communities and governmental stewards is to assure subsistence, sustainability, and stability for many communities.

Thank you for your attentiveness to community concerns and for your willingness to develop collaborations regarding traditional-use of the public patrimony.

Attentively,



Eric Romero Ph.D: Faculty; Native American/Hispano Cultural Studies
Chair; Dept. Languages & Culture, New Mexico Highlands University

Representative Raul Grijalva, Chair
Representative Deb Haaland, Vice-Chair
US House of Representatives Natural Resource Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Vice-Chair Haaland:

I am writing on behalf of Acequia Sancochada to express our full support for H.R. 3682, Land Grant and Acequia Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act. In New Mexico, acequias are a centuries-old institutions of water governance that continue to provide water that supports local agricultural economies and a rural way of life that is an important part of our state's cultural heritage.

Acequias, also known as community ditches, provide water for farmers and ranchers in their respective communities with water that originates from mountain snowmelt through diversions structures and networks of irrigation ditches.

Numerous acequias originate in federal public lands that were formerly Spanish and Mexican community land grants. In the Carson, Cibola, Santa Fe, and Lincoln National Forests, acequia irrigation works pre-date designation of the United States Forest Service by many years. Acequias depend on access to their irrigation works, which mainly consist of irrigation diversions from mountain streams, to conduct maintenance, repairs, and maintenance, as well as to replace irrigation works as needed.

Periodically Acequia Sancochada needs access to the water shed to inspect the stream of water and also to determine if any issues may need to be discussed with the Forestry service. This access is vital to our ability to keep our acequias functioning to steward arable land that depends on the flow for food supply and ecosystem maintenance,

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We fully support H.R. 3682 and we respectfully ask for your support in the National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee and in the June 18, 2020 hearing on US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Bills. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Loretta Sandoval
Acequia Sancochada-Treasurer-Secretary 2015-2020
Dixon, NM
redasandoval@yahoo.com
2/24/20

Albuquerque, June 18 2020

Representative Raul Grijalva, Chair
Representative Deb Haaland, Vice-Chair
US House of Representatives Natural Resource Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Vice-Chair Haaland:

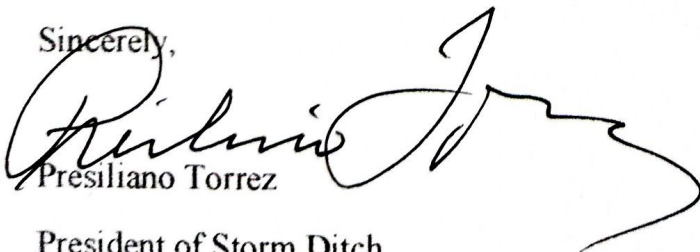
I am writing on behalf of Storm Ditch in Lincoln County to express our full support for H.R. 3682, Land Grant and Acequia Traditional Use Recognition and Consultation Act. In New Mexico, acequias are a centuries-old institutions of water governance that continue to provide water that supports local agricultural economies and a rural way of life that is an important part of our state's cultural heritage. Acequias, also known as community ditches, provide water for farmers and ranchers in their respective communities with water that originates from mountain snowmelt, like the Sierra Blanca, through diversions structures and networks of irrigation ditches.

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We fully support H.R. 3682 and we respectfully ask for your support in the National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee and in the June 18, 2020 hearing on US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Bills. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Presiliano Torrez

President of Storm Ditch