RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE USDI BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT-SOCORRO RESOURCE AREA AND NM EMNRD FORESTRY DIVISION-SOCORRO DISTRICT TO DEVELOP A PILOT PROJECT THAT ALLOWS THE COUNTY TO BECOME INVOLVED IN FOREST AND RANGELAND RESTORATION PROJECTS ON BLM LANDS BY AGREETING TO BE THE CONTRACTING AGENT FOR THESE RESTORATION PROJECTS.

WHEREAS, the Catron County Commission desires to foster local economic development opportunities based on renewable natural resource management; and

WHEREAS, the County of Catron has adopted an economic development plan and has enacted a Local Economic Development Act Ordinance (Catron County ordinance No. 001-2008, hereinafter referred to as “LEDA”) pursuant to the New Mexico Local Economic Development Act, Sections 5-10-1 through 5-10-13 NMSA 1978; and

WHEREAS, the Catron County Commission has determined that the interest of local economic development would be served by partnering with the above agencies to increase efficiency in contracting for forest, rangeland and watershed restoration projects by entering into long term agreements where the county would be permitted to contract with local contractors to treat areas identified by the above agencies to remove encroaching vegetation and then work to develop viable value added markets for any material that could be utilized; and

WHEREAS, in some areas, where there will be no viable market for this material, the county will work with the above agencies to utilize this material in erosion and watershed restoration projects; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the county to work to minimize the risk of catastrophic wildfire to the forest, rangelands, watersheds, private property and infrastructure of Catron County; and

WHEREAS, the county has taken a leadership role in working towards forest, rangeland and watershed restoration activities and passed declarations of Disasters as per with the passage of Resolution 050-2001 in June, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the county has been the fiscal agent to numerous forest restoration projects on private lands, in partnership with NM EMNRD, Forestry Division, since 2001, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the board of Commissioners of Catron County that Catron County agrees to work with the Bureau of Land Management- Socorro Resources Area and NM EMNRD Forestry Division- Socorro District to develop and implement a Forest, Rangeland and Watershed Restoration Pilot Project on land identified by the Bureau of Land Management in Catron County that will demonstrate a way to treat and restore these lands while realizing a economic benefit, and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that if this pilot project is found to be successful and sustainable, we will work to determine ways to help the private landowner treat their private lands in like fashion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Catron County and the above two agencies will be responsible for the following critical components to make this project work:
a. **BLM RESPONSIBILITIES**
   1. Identify potential sites for restoration and harvesting of woody products/biomass in collaboration with Catron County for immediate and future proposals. Complete the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on those sites.
   2. Locate potential areas for patenting via Recreation and Public Purposes in order to provide collection and distribution locations for the biomass.

b. **NEW MEXICO STATE FORESTRY DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES**
   1. Provide technical advice and special expertise in both the restoration activities as well as the development of markets for woody products harvested from these projects and their markets.

c. **CATRON COUNTY RESPONSIBILITIES**
   1. Manage the program as a self-sustaining, revenue-generating enterprise for the county with minimal assistance from the BLM.
   2. Work with contractors to sell the woody products recovered from BLM-administered lands as agreed and in the manner agreed between BLM and Catron County.
   3. Provide in-kind work on BLM lands in exchange for said woody biomass, in the manner and location agreed to between the BLM and Catron County.

*Done*, at Reserve, Catron County, New Mexico, this 21st day of December, 2011.

**ATTEST:**

/s/ __________________________
Sharon Armijo, Clerk

/s/ __________________________
Hugh B. McKeen, Chairman

/s/ __________________________
Glynn Griffin, Member

/s/ __________________________
Richard McGuire, Member