Resolution 054-2012

Declaring Emergency/Disaster Declaration from Fire and Flooding Caused by the Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire

WHEREAS, the County of Catron has suffered damage caused by the Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire located in the State of New Mexico during the period from the 16th day of May, 2012 through the 8th day of June, 2012 and the continuing threat of the Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire and its impact to Catron County through September, 2012; and,

WHEREAS, due to the ongoing destruction currently occurring in Catron County, New Mexico by the Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire and continued impending threat to Catron County; extensive cost has impacted Catron County in preparing and taking defensible actions on public property, roads, public utilities, and private property located in the projected paths of the Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Catron will suffer severe flooding caused by the Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire to public property, roads, public utilities, and private property, creating deep cutting erosion, significant soil loss, and gullies located in and around the paths of the Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire; and,

WHEREAS, rains will cause flooding that is aggravated by dangerous debris, resulting from the Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire, creating hazardous conditions that could result in significant property damage, threats to human safety; and,

WHEREAS, rains and flooding resulting to damage causing emergency conditions within and around the watershed area of the Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire; and,

WHEREAS, systematic capital improvements and flood planning is an effective tool for communities and counties to define their development needs, establish priorities, and pursue concrete actions and strategies to achieve necessary project development; and,

WHEREAS, due to the Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire in Catron County, New Mexico and due to this impending threat to Catron County by the massive Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire and severe flooding after the fire, resources and the Catron County Emergency Operations Center have been pre-positioned and activated; and,
WHEREAS, the threat has resulted in undue human suffering, hardship and threatens the safety, health, welfare, and the well-being of citizens and economic function of the County of Catron; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Catron has equipment and manpower that can be used to take defensible actions and to repair damage from flooding resulting from the Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire on public property, roads, public utilities, and private property creating hazardous conditions that result in undue human suffering, hardship and threats to the safety health, welfare, and well-being of citizens and economic function of the County of Catron; and,

WHEREAS, all locally available public and private resources and forces available to mitigate and alleviate the threat and impending damage from fire and flooding are deemed insufficient to cope with the resulting situation, to initiate pre-suppression activities, pre-flooding control, conduct structure protection, and implement and assist with suppression and flood control actions; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, by virtue of the authority provided by the New Mexico Civil Emergency Preparedness Act (NMSA 1978, 12-10-01 to 12-10-11) do hereby declare the County of Catron to be an emergency/disaster area for the purpose of exercising necessary emergency powers and expenditure of available resources, and requesting aid, assistance, and relief programs, and funds available from the State of New Mexico.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of June, 2012 in regular session of the Catron County Commission, at Reserve, Catron County, New Mexico.

ATTEST:

/s/ Hugh B. McKeen, Chairman
Sharon Armijo, Clerk

/s/ Richard McGuire, Member

/s/ Glyn Griffin, Member