



## Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge And Conservation Area

*560<sup>th</sup> unit of the  
national wildlife  
refuge system*



On September 27, 2012, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service accepted a donation of the Wind River Ranch in north central New Mexico.

Acquisition of these lands formally establishes a 4,224-acre Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge and a 300,000-acre watershed level conservation area.

In addition to the land (valued at \$5 million) the donation includes up to \$1.7M to support successful and on-going environmental education, research and habitat management on the former ranch.

This refuge meets several key objectives of the *Americas Great Outdoors* initiative to engage youth in outdoor education and recreation.

### **Unique Features of this Project:**

- Environmental education program serving hundreds of students and teachers.
- Acquisition of lands is through a donation from a private Foundation (Thaw Charitable Trust)
- Site contains original homestead of first Hispanic governor of New Mexico.
- Partnership driven conservation area initiative allows the Service to provide technical support to interested landowners throughout the Rio Mora watershed.
- The Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area is a watershed level partnership effort in conjunction with a 5,000-acre National Wildlife Refuge and Environmental Education Center.
- This project is an example of the diverse approaches taken by the Administration to protect lands for conservation benefit. It also represents a partnership driven effort, with pooled limited resources for maximum public benefit.

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