

League of United Latin American Citizens

RESOLUTION FROM LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS COUNCIL 8003 SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO SUPPORTING PERMANENT PROTECTION OF THE GILA RIVER, SAN FRANCISCO RIVER AND MAIN TRIBUTARIES AS WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

WHEREAS, Latinos, Native Americans and Modem American Mestizo People have lived on lands now comprising New Mexico for thousands of years, have a rich cultural heritage here, and have made many important contributions to the culture and history of the United States.

WHEREAS, our nation must honor the history and contributions of Latino people in its network of national monuments, parks, conservation lands, historic landmarks, and other protected sites like Wild and Scenic Rivers, appropriately and adequately to reflect and preserve the cultural heritage of Latino and Hispanic Americans as a valued part of our nation's heritage.

WHEREAS, critically important areas rich in Latino, Native American and Mestizo cultural heritage can be found all along the Gila River, San Francisco River and their main tributaries in the Gila National Forest, the Gila Wilderness and the Ado Leopold Wilderness Areas.

WHEREAS, the cultural and historic features found along the Gila River, San Francisco River and their main tributaries include areas that have been inhabited by the Mogollon People, use of which dates back several thousand years, including the Gila-Cliff Dwellings National Monument; and the more recent Apache People, who together left behind numerous petroglyphs, pictographs, pottery and other cultural significance all along these precious river corridors.

WHEREAS, Latino community leaders, elected officials, business owners, veterans, sportsmen, youth and conservationists have collectively worked together in the pursuit to permanently protect, conserve and establish the Gila River, San Francisco River and their main tributaries as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

WHEREAS, permanent protection of the Gila River, San Francisco River, and their main tributaries as Wild and Scenic Rivers would appropriately and rightly honor our state's Latino, Mestizo and Native cultures and heritage, and will ensure the history that lives therein is protected for our children and grandchildren and the generations that come after them.

WHEREAS, opportunities to experience and learn about objects of historic or scientific interest on the public lands of the Gila River, San Francisco River and their main tributaries, and to pursue diverse recreational opportunities including picnicking, hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, wildlife viewing,

kayaking, rafting and canoeing, all contribute to the health, well-being, and quality of life for county residents and visitors.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the League of United Latin American Citizens Council 8003, Silver City, supports the permanent protection of the Gila River, San Francisco River and their main tributaries by designating them as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2019 LULAC National Convention on July 13, 2019.

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Domingo Garcia LULAC National President