



## Grant County Area Cattle Growers

11970 Hwy 180 E. Arenas Valley, NM 88022

[gccattlegrowers@gmail.com](mailto:gccattlegrowers@gmail.com)

March 31, 2021

### Resolution of Opposition

MH Dutch Salmon Greater Gila Wild & Scenic River Amendment

**Whereas:** New Mexico U.S. Senators are sponsoring a bill titled "The M. H. Dutch Salmon Greater Gila Wild and Scenic River Act Amendment" which would apply to 450+ miles of the Gila and San Francisco Rivers and their tributaries, and would negatively impact the property owners, stakeholders, and the agribusiness of cattle growers in our area; and

**Whereas:** The bill has been drafted by radical environmental activists that ideologically oppose agriculture, farming, ranching, mining, timber harvesting, private property rights, community development, and land ownership; and

**Whereas:** These designations were planned and developed without any input from landowners. Senators did not ask for or provide for public input from the property owners along these rivers prior to drafting this legislation. Instead, they only relied on a group of "volunteer activists", not local citizens, to map and determine which river segments to designate; even though many of these river segments had already been deemed ineligible by the US Forest Service. This legislation disenfranchises those citizens who have property and water rights in the Gila River drainage in preference to activists for political causes; and

**Whereas:** The legislation will result in a financial benefit to these activist groups and their attorneys because it will provide an avenue for litigation aimed at controlling multiple-use activities already being conducted along the river; and

**Whereas:** It will allow condemnation of property, loss of water rights, limits on the availability of water, and will result in declining property values because of the restrictions and uncertainty created by the Act. The legislation will have an adverse impact on irrigation, water rights, and the ability for landowners adjacent to the rivers to exercise property rights guaranteed by the constitution.

**Therefore be it resolved** that the Grant County Cattle Grower's Association adamantly oppose this amendment to The Wild and Scenic River Bill.

**Be it further resolved** that Grant County Cattle Grower's Association will continue to support agriculture, mining, timber harvesting, and the rights of private property owners. We will fully support our citizens in their role as the true conservationists, the ones that have kept, protected, and conserved these rivers because of their vested interest, their heritage, and their rights as a free people.

Approved and passed by Grant County Cattle Growers Board 3-31-21

*Buddy Stey*      *Raymond M. Conley*  
*Jo Barber*      *Jessica Beeman*