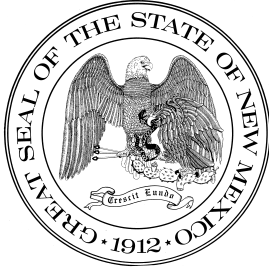


State of New Mexico
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May12, 2020

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express a number of concerns that many of my constituents and I share regarding the proposed Wild and Scenic River designations for the Gila and San Francisco Rivers in southwestern New Mexico. In general, my concerns can be summarized as being that any such designations for either the Gila or the San Francisco will create no more protections than these rivers currently enjoy. In addition, the legal, procedural and enforcement hurdles imposed by wild and scenic designations are clearly problematic.

The designation of wild and scenic or any of the other variable options does little to increase any protections for the Gila and San Francisco Rivers. However, such designations do open the use of state water permitting procedures to the federal court system, which will exponentially increase the ability of opponents to stall or prohibit economic development or water use above those segments. There are already multiple layers of management and use restrictions without adding another layer that will only benefit professional litigants.

Serving District 38,

Representative Rebecca Dow