



THE GILA RIVER is the life-blood of New Mexico: the last free-flowing river in the state that still has an abundance and diversity of fish and wildlife. The Gila is unmatched for outdoor activities like hiking, hunting and fishing and as a place people can go to enjoy the beauty of nature. The Gila is also a witness to the history of New Mexico: its canyons, cliffs and cottonwood groves are home to historic Native American and early pioneer sites. The Gila is also a source of jobs and revenues, supporting tourism and outdoor recreation as a foundation of the local economy.

The river faces unprecedented pressures that come with the increasing population and development of the Southwest. A current proposal to divert huge amounts of water from the river is just the latest of many dam and development plans that would change the Gila forever.

We can't afford to take our Gila River for granted. Active involvement of those who know and love the Gila River is the only way to ensure it is managed thoughtfully and sustainably for today and for future generations.

Front page: *The headwaters of the Gila River begin in America's first Wilderness area. Americans come from all over to enjoy the freedom of the river and surrounding public lands.*

"The wild and free Gila River is essential for the quality of life for locals and visitors to the region."

—Chris Schlabach, Co-Owner
Gila Hike & Bike

WHAT YOU *can do* TO HELP PERMANENTLY PROTECT *the* GILA

- Sign a petition
- Write a letter
- Attend a public meeting
- Talk to your county commissioner and other elected officials
- Volunteer
- Contribute money
- Talk to your friends and neighbors
- Follow us on Facebook @Wild Gila River

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"In my corner of the Land of Enchantment, the Gila River is the state's last major free-flowing river. It draws in visitors and residents that support our local economy."

—State Senator Howie Morales

To learn more about how you can join efforts to keep the Gila River wild and free forever visit

wildgilariver.org

"The Gila River is a crown jewel of the Southwest and one of the last remaining free-flowing rivers in the United States. The river provides amazing opportunities for recreation, wildlife habitat protection, and has unique historic value."—Senator Tom Udall

KEEP THE GILA WILD & SCENIC THE WAY IT'S *always* BEEN



Mist rises in the tranquility of the West Fork of the Gila River.

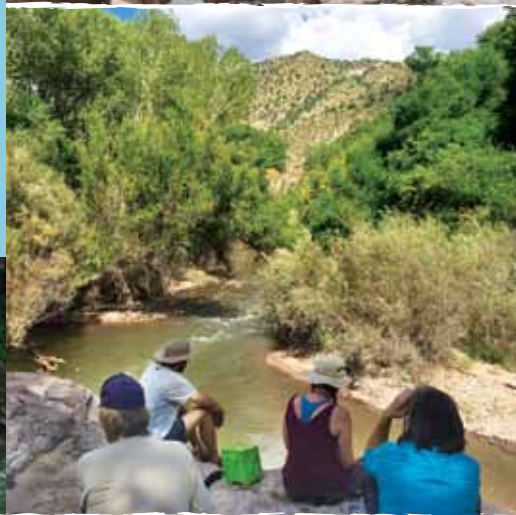
Area farmers depend on clean water and a healthy river for crops and for their traditions and livelihoods.



CLEAN WATER *wildlife* HISTORY & SCENIC BEAUTY



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
wildgilariver.org



THE PROPOSAL to divert water from the Gila River threatens to dry up the river, harm fishing and kayaking, hurt traditional ways of life and livelihoods like sustainable farming, while robbing future generations of the opportunity to know and enjoy a free-flowing Gila. The diversion project would cost taxpayers and ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars for something that residents didn't ask for and won't benefit from.

We need to use and develop New Mexico's natural resources wisely in ways that conserve our rivers and respect our traditions and way of life. Washington DC needs to listen to New Mexicans now before we lose what makes the Gila River special. The best way to do that is by supporting the campaign to designate the Gila as a Wild and Scenic River. Once we lose the Gila, there is no getting it back.

PROVEN WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES can allow us to keep water in the river for New Mexicans to use and enjoy—for floaters, fishermen and farmers, and local communities.

Designating parts of the Gila and the San Francisco Rivers, as a Wild and Scenic River will protect what makes the region special: the places that contain the best scenery, fish and wildlife habitat, and historic treasures. Wild and Scenic protection also gives New Mexicans a voice to manage the river for current and future generations.

THE PRIMARY BENEFITS OF THE WILD & SCENIC RIVERS ACT are that it "protects the free flow of the river" and "protects what makes the river special."

Sections of the Rio Grande and the Chama River in New Mexico already enjoy the benefits of Wild and Scenic River designation and show how special rivers can be protected and enhanced for everyone's benefit. Wild and Scenic River designation neither limits the public from accessing public lands nor opens private lands to public access. Designation will not change existing water rights or irrigations systems. Fishing and hunting regulations will stay the same while the habitat that makes New Mexico's outdoor traditions special will be protected.

The Gila River provides peace and comfort to locals and visitors alike. The area is enjoyed by thousands of people each year who come for rafting, kayaking, backpacking, hiking, hunting, fishing, birding, horseback riding, camping or soaking in the numerous hot springs. Tourism and outdoor recreation are an important and growing part of the local economy, creating jobs and generating tax revenues for communities.

DEVELOPMENT
PRESSURES
**COULD
CHANGE
the GILA
forever**



Fourteen native fishes live in the basin, including four that occur nowhere else in the world. The area is prized for its wildlife habitat and hunting opportunities, including world class elk, mule deer, Coues deer and wild turkey.