

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2903

To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Gila River system in the State of New Mexico as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 2025

Mr. VASQUEZ (for himself, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, and Ms. STANSBURY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Gila River system in the State of New Mexico as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “M.H. Dutch Salmon
5 Greater Gila Wild and Scenic River Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 (1) COVERED SEGMENT.—The term “covered
4 segment” means a river segment designated by para-
5 graph (233) of section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic
6 Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) (as added by sub-
7 section (b)).

8 (2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
9 retary concerned” means—

10 (A) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
11 spect to a covered segment under the jurisdic-
12 tion of the Secretary of the Interior; and

13 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
14 spect to a covered segment under the jurisdic-
15 tion of the Secretary of Agriculture.

16 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
17 of New Mexico.

18 (b) DESIGNATION OF SEGMENTS.—Section 3(a) of
19 the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is
20 amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “(233) GILA RIVER SYSTEM, NEW MEXICO.—
22 The following segments of the Gila River system in
23 Las Animas Creek, Holden Prong, and McKnight
24 Canyon in the State of New Mexico, to be adminis-
25 tered by the Secretary concerned (as defined in sec-
26 tion 2(a) of the M.H. Dutch Salmon Greater Gila

1 Wild and Scenic River Act) in the following classi-
2 fications:

3 “(A) APACHE CREEK.—The approximately
4 10.5-mile segment, as generally depicted on the
5 map entitled ‘Apache Creek’ and dated April
6 30, 2020, as a wild river.

7 “(B) BLACK CANYON CREEK.—

8 “(i) The 11.8-mile segment, as gen-
9 erally depicted on the map entitled ‘Black
10 Canyon Creek’ and dated April 30, 2020,
11 as a wild river.

12 “(ii) The 0.6-mile segment, as gen-
13 erally depicted on the map entitled ‘Black
14 Canyon Creek’ and dated April 30, 2020,
15 as a recreational river.

16 “(iii) The 1.9-mile segment, as gen-
17 erally depicted on the map entitled ‘Black
18 Canyon Creek’ and dated April 30, 2020,
19 as a recreational river.

20 “(iv) The 11-mile segment, as gen-
21 erally depicted on the map entitled ‘Black
22 Canyon Creek’ and dated April 30, 2020,
23 as a wild river.

24 “(C) DIAMOND CREEK.—

1 “(i) The approximately 13.3-mile seg-
2 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
3 titled ‘Diamond Creek’ and dated March
4 27, 2020, as a wild river.

5 “(ii) The approximately 4.7-mile seg-
6 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
7 titled ‘Diamond Creek’ and dated March
8 27, 2020, as a wild river.

9 “(iii) The approximately 3.1-mile seg-
10 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
11 titled ‘Diamond Creek’ and dated March
12 27, 2020, as a recreational river.

13 “(iv) The approximately 1.6-mile seg-
14 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
15 titled ‘Diamond Creek’ and dated March
16 27, 2020, as a recreational river.

17 “(v) The approximately 4.1-mile seg-
18 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
19 titled ‘Diamond Creek’ and dated March
20 27, 2020, as a wild river.

21 “(D) SOUTH DIAMOND CREEK.—The ap-
22 proximately 16.1-mile segment, as generally de-
23 picted on the map entitled ‘South Diamond
24 Creek’ and dated March 27, 2020, as a wild
25 river.

1 “(E) GILA RIVER.—

2 “(i) The approximately 34.9-mile seg-
3 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
4 titled ‘Gila River’ and dated April 30,
5 2020, as a wild river.

6 “(ii) The approximately 2.5-mile seg-
7 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
8 titled ‘Gila River’ and dated April 30,
9 2020, as a recreational river.

10 “(iii) The approximately 3-mile seg-
11 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
12 titled ‘Gila River’ and dated April 30,
13 2020, as a wild river.

14 “(F) GILA RIVER, EAST FORK.—The ap-
15 proximately 10.3-mile segment, as generally de-
16 picted on the map entitled ‘East Fork Gila
17 River’ and dated April 30, 2020, as a wild
18 river.

19 “(G) GILA RIVER, LOWER BOX.—

20 “(i) The approximately 3.1-mile seg-
21 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
22 titled ‘Gila River, Lower Box’ and dated
23 April 21, 2020, as a recreational river.

24 “(ii) The approximately 6.1-mile seg-
25 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-

1 titled ‘Gila River, Lower Box’ and dated
2 April 21, 2020, as a wild river.

3 “(H) GILA RIVER, MIDDLE BOX.—

4 “(i) The approximately 0.6-mile seg-
5 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
6 titled ‘Gila River, Middle Box’ and dated
7 April 30, 2020, as a recreational river.

8 “(ii) The approximately 0.4-mile seg-
9 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
10 titled ‘Gila River, Middle Box’ and dated
11 April 30, 2020, as a recreational river.

12 “(iii) The approximately 0.3-mile seg-
13 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
14 titled ‘Gila River, Middle Box’ and dated
15 April 30, 2020, as a recreational river.

16 “(iv) The approximately 0.3-mile seg-
17 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
18 titled ‘Gila River, Middle Box’ and dated
19 April 30, 2020, as a recreational river.

20 “(v) The approximately 1.6-mile seg-
21 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
22 titled ‘Gila River, Middle Box’ and dated
23 April 30, 2020, as a recreational river.

24 “(vi) The approximately 9.8-mile seg-
25 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-

1 titled ‘Gila River, Middle Box’ and dated
2 April 30, 2020, as a wild river.

3 “(I) GILA RIVER, MIDDLE FORK.—

4 “(i) The approximately 1.2-mile seg-
5 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
6 titled ‘Middle Fork Gila River’ and dated
7 May 1, 2020, as a recreational river.

8 “(ii) The approximately 35.5-mile seg-
9 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
10 titled ‘Middle Fork Gila River’ and dated
11 May 1, 2020, as a wild river.

12 “(J) GILA RIVER, WEST FORK.—

13 “(i) The approximately 30.6-mile seg-
14 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
15 titled ‘West Fork Gila River’ and dated
16 May 1, 2020, as a wild river.

17 “(ii) The approximately 4-mile seg-
18 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
19 titled ‘West Fork Gila River’ and dated
20 May 1, 2020, as a recreational river.

21 “(K) GILITA CREEK.—The approximately
22 6.4-mile segment, as generally depicted on the
23 map entitled ‘Gilita Creek’ and dated March 4,
24 2020, as a wild river.

1 “(L) HOLDEN PRONG.—The approximately
2 7.3-mile segment, as generally depicted on the
3 map entitled ‘Holden Prong’ and dated March
4 27, 2020, as a wild river.

5 “(M) INDIAN CREEK.—

6 “(i) The approximately 5-mile seg-
7 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
8 titled ‘Indian Creek’ and dated March 27,
9 2020, as a recreational river.

10 “(ii) The approximately 9.5-mile seg-
11 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
12 titled ‘Indian Creek’ and dated March 27,
13 2020, as a wild river.

14 “(N) IRON CREEK.—The approximately
15 13.2-mile segment, as generally depicted on the
16 map entitled ‘Iron Creek’ and dated March 4,
17 2020, as a wild river.

18 “(O) LAS ANIMAS CREEK.—

19 “(i) The approximately 5.3-mile seg-
20 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
21 titled ‘Las Animas Creek’ and dated
22 March 27, 2020, as a wild river.

23 “(ii) The approximately 2.3-mile seg-
24 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-

1 titled ‘Las Animas Creek’ and dated
2 March 27, 2020, as a scenic river.

3 “(P) LITTLE CREEK.—

4 “(i) The approximately 0.3-mile seg-
5 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
6 titled ‘Little Creek’ and dated May 1,
7 2020, as a recreational river.

8 “(ii) The approximately 18.3-mile seg-
9 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
10 titled ‘Little Creek’ and dated May 1,
11 2020, as a wild river.

12 “(Q) MCKNIGHT CANYON.—The approxi-
13 mately 10.3-mile segment, as generally depicted
14 on the map entitled ‘McKnight Canyon’ and
15 dated March 4, 2020, as a wild river.

16 “(R) MINERAL CREEK.—

17 “(i) The approximately 8.3-mile seg-
18 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
19 titled ‘Mineral Creek’ and dated March 27,
20 2020, as a wild river.

21 “(ii) The approximately 0.5-mile seg-
22 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
23 titled ‘Mineral Creek’ and dated March 27,
24 2020, as a recreational river.

1 “(iii) The approximately 0.5-mile seg-
2 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
3 titled ‘Mineral Creek’ and dated March 27,
4 2020, as a recreational river.

5 “(iv) The approximately 0.1-mile seg-
6 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
7 titled ‘Mineral Creek’ and dated March 27,
8 2020, as a recreational river.

9 “(v) The approximately 0.03-mile seg-
10 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
11 titled ‘Mineral Creek’ and dated March 27,
12 2020, as a recreational river.

13 “(vi) The approximately 0.02-mile
14 segment, as generally depicted on the map
15 entitled ‘Mineral Creek’ and dated March
16 27, 2020, as a recreational river.

17 “(vii) The approximately 0.6-mile seg-
18 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
19 titled ‘Mineral Creek’ and dated March 27,
20 2020, as a recreational river.

21 “(viii) The approximately 0.1-mile
22 segment, as generally depicted on the map
23 entitled ‘Mineral Creek’ and dated March
24 27, 2020, as a recreational river.

1 “(ix) The approximately 0.03-mile
2 segment, as generally depicted on the map
3 entitled ‘Mineral Creek’ and dated March
4 27, 2020, as a recreational river.

5 “(x) The approximately 0.7-mile seg-
6 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
7 titled ‘Mineral Creek’ and dated March 27,
8 2020, as a recreational river.

9 “(S) MOGOLLON CREEK.—The approxi-
10 mately 15.8-mile segment, as generally depicted
11 on the map entitled ‘Mogollon Creek’ and dated
12 April 2, 2020, as a wild river.

13 “(T) WEST FORK MOGOLLON CREEK.—
14 The approximately 8.5-mile segment, as gen-
15 erally depicted on the map entitled ‘West Fork
16 Mogollon Creek’ and dated March 4, 2020, as
17 a wild river.

18 “(U) MULE CREEK.—The approximately
19 4.3-mile segment, as generally depicted on the
20 map entitled ‘Mule Creek’ and dated March 4,
21 2020, as a wild river.

22 “(V) SAN FRANCISCO RIVER, DEVIL’S
23 CREEK.—

24 “(i) The approximately 1.8-mile seg-
25 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-

1 titled ‘San Francisco River, Devil’s Creek’
2 and dated October 29, 2021, as a scenic
3 river.

4 “(ii) The approximately 6.4-mile seg-
5 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
6 titled ‘San Francisco River, Devil’s Creek’
7 and dated October 29, 2021, as a scenic
8 river.

9 “(iii) The approximately 6.1-mile seg-
10 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
11 titled ‘San Francisco River, Devil’s Creek’
12 and dated October 29, 2021, as a scenic
13 river.

14 “(iv) The approximately 1.2-mile seg-
15 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
16 titled ‘San Francisco River, Devil’s Creek’
17 and dated October 29, 2021, as a rec-
18 reational river.

19 “(v) The approximately 5.9-mile seg-
20 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
21 titled ‘San Francisco River, Devil’s Creek’
22 and dated October 29, 2021, as a rec-
23 reational river.

24 “(W) SAN FRANCISCO RIVER, LOWER SAN
25 FRANCISCO RIVER CANYON.—

1 “(i) The approximately 1.8-mile seg-
2 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
3 titled ‘San Francisco River, Lower San
4 Francisco River Canyon’ and dated March
5 27, 2020, as a wild river.

6 “(ii) The approximately 0.6-mile seg-
7 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
8 titled ‘San Francisco River, Lower San
9 Francisco River Canyon’ and dated March
10 27, 2020, as a recreational river.

11 “(iii) The approximately 14.6-mile
12 segment, as generally depicted on the map
13 entitled ‘San Francisco River, Lower San
14 Francisco River Canyon’ and dated March
15 27, 2020, as a wild river.

16 “(X) SAN FRANCISCO RIVER, UPPER FRIS-
17 CO BOX.—The approximately 6-mile segment,
18 as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘San
19 Francisco River, Upper Frisco Box’ and dated
20 March 4, 2020, as a wild river.

21 “(Y) SAPILLO CREEK.—The approximately
22 7.2-mile segment, as generally depicted on the
23 map entitled ‘Sapillo Creek’ and dated March
24 27, 2020, as a wild river.

1 “(Z) SPRUCE CREEK.—The approximately
2 3.7-mile segment, as generally depicted on the
3 map entitled ‘Spruce Creek’ and dated March
4 4, 2020, as a wild river.

5 “(AA) TAYLOR CREEK.—

6 “(i) The approximately 0.4-mile seg-
7 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
8 titled ‘Taylor Creek’ and dated April 30,
9 2020, as a scenic river.

10 “(ii) The approximately 6.1-mile seg-
11 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
12 titled ‘Taylor Creek’ and dated April 30,
13 2020, as a wild river.

14 “(iii) The approximately 6.7-mile seg-
15 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
16 titled ‘Taylor Creek’ and dated April 30,
17 2020, as a wild river.

18 “(BB) TURKEY CREEK.—The approxi-
19 mately 17.1-mile segment, as generally depicted
20 on the map entitled ‘Turkey Creek’ and dated
21 April 30, 2020, as a wild river.

22 “(CC) WHITEWATER CREEK.—

23 “(i) The approximately 13.5-mile seg-
24 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-

1 titled ‘Whitewater Creek’ and dated March
2 27, 2020, as a wild river.

3 “(ii) The approximately 1.1-mile seg-
4 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
5 titled ‘Whitewater Creek’ and dated March
6 27, 2020, as a recreational river.

7 “(DD) WILLOW CREEK.—

8 “(i) The approximately 3-mile seg-
9 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
10 titled ‘Willow Creek’ and dated April 30,
11 2020, as a recreational river.

12 “(ii) The approximately 2.9-mile seg-
13 ment, as generally depicted on the map en-
14 titled ‘Willow Creek’ and dated April 30,
15 2020, as a recreational river.”.

16 (c) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,
17 all Federal land within the boundary of a covered segment
18 is withdrawn from all forms of—

19 (1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the
20 public land laws;

21 (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining
22 laws; and

23 (3) disposition under all laws pertaining to min-
24 eral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

25 (d) MAPS; LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary con-
3 cerned shall prepare maps and legal descriptions of
4 the covered segments.

5 (2) FORCE OF LAW.—The maps and legal de-
6 scriptions prepared under paragraph (1) shall have
7 the same force and effect as if included in this sec-
8 tion, except that the Secretary concerned may cor-
9 rect minor errors in the maps and legal descriptions.

10 (3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal descrip-
11 tion prepared under paragraph (1) shall be on file
12 and available for public inspection in the appropriate
13 offices of the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land
14 Management, and the National Park Service.

15 (e) COMPREHENSIVE RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN.—
16 The Secretary concerned shall prepare the comprehensive
17 management plan for the covered segments pursuant to
18 section 3(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C.
19 1274(d)) after consulting with Tribal governments, appli-
20 cable political subdivisions of the State, and interested
21 members of the public.

22 (f) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND INTER-
23 ESTS IN LAND.—If the United States acquires any non-
24 Federal land within or adjacent to a covered segment, the

1 acquired land shall be incorporated in, and be adminis-
2 tered as part of, the applicable covered segment.

3 (g) EFFECT OF SECTION.—

4 (1) EFFECT ON RIGHTS.—In accordance with
5 section 12(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16
6 U.S.C. 1283(b)), nothing in this section or an
7 amendment made by this section abrogates any ex-
8 isting rights of, privilege of, or contract held by any
9 person, including any right, privilege, or contract
10 that affects Federal land or private land, without
11 the consent of the person, including—

12 (A) grazing permits or leases;

13 (B) existing water rights, including the ju-
14 risdiction of the State in administering water
15 rights;

16 (C) existing points of diversion, including
17 maintenance, repair, or replacement;

18 (D) existing water distribution infrastruc-
19 ture, including maintenance, repair, or replace-
20 ment; and

21 (E) valid existing rights for mining and
22 mineral leases.

23 (2) MINING ACTIVITIES.—The designation of a
24 covered segment by subparagraph (G) or (H) of
25 paragraph (233) of section 3(a) of the Wild and Sce-

1 nic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) (as added by
2 subsection (b)) shall not—

3 (A) limit the licensing, development, opera-
4 tion, or maintenance of mining activities or
5 mineral processing facilities outside the bound-
6 aries of the applicable covered segment; or

7 (B) affect any rights, obligations, privi-
8 leges, or benefits granted under any permit or
9 approval with respect to such mining activities
10 or mineral processing facilities.

11 (3) CONDEMNATION.—No land or interest in
12 land shall be acquired under this section or an
13 amendment made by this section without the consent
14 of the owner.

15 (4) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.—Nothing
16 in this section amends or otherwise affects the Ari-
17 zona Water Settlements Act (Public Law 108–451;
18 118 Stat. 3478).

19 (5) NATIVE FISH HABITAT RESTORATION.—

20 (A) EXISTING PROJECTS.—Nothing in this
21 section or an amendment made by this section
22 affects the authority of the Secretary concerned
23 or the State to operate, maintain, replace, or
24 improve a native fish habitat restoration project
25 (including fish barriers) in existence as of the

1 date of enactment of this Act within a covered
2 segment.

3 (B) NEW PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding
4 section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16
5 U.S.C. 1278), the Secretary concerned may au-
6 thorize the construction of a native fish habitat
7 restoration project (including any necessary fish
8 barriers) within a covered segment if the
9 project—

10 (i) would enhance the recovery of a
11 species listed as threatened or endangered
12 under the Endangered Species Act of 1973
13 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), a sensitive spe-
14 cies, or a species of greatest conservation
15 need, including the Gila Trout
16 (*Oncorhynchus gilae*); and

17 (ii) would not unreasonably diminish
18 the free-flowing nature or outstandingly re-
19 markable values of the covered segment.

20 (C) PROJECTS WITHIN WILDERNESS
21 AREAS.—A native fish habitat restoration
22 project (including fish barriers) located within
23 an area designated as a component of the Na-
24 tional Wilderness Preservation System shall be
25 constructed consistent with—

5 (6) STATE LAND JURISDICTION.—Nothing in
6 this section or an amendment made by this section
7 affects the jurisdiction of land under the jurisdiction
8 of the State, including land under the jurisdiction of
9 the New Mexico State Land Office and the New
10 Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

15 (8) TREATY RIGHTS.—Nothing in this section
16 or an amendment made by this section alters, modi-
17 fies, diminishes, or extinguishes the reserved treaty
18 rights of any Indian Tribe with respect to hunting,
19 fishing, gathering, and cultural or religious rights in
20 the vicinity of a covered segment as protected by a
21 treaty.

1 SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF BOUNDARIES OF GILA CLIFF

2 DWELLINGS NATIONAL MONUMENT AND GILA

3 NATIONAL FOREST.

4 (a) TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Administrative jurisdiction
7 over the land described in paragraph (2) is trans-
8 ferred from the Secretary of Agriculture to the Sec-
9 retary of the Interior.

10 (2) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred
11 to in paragraph (1) is the approximately 440 acres
12 of land identified as “Transfer from USDA Forest
13 Service to National Park Service” on the map enti-
14 tled “Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument Pro-
15 posed Boundary Adjustment” and dated March
16 2020.

17 (b) BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS.—

18 (1) GILA CLIFF DWELLINGS NATIONAL MONU-
19 MENT.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—The boundary of the
21 Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument is re-
22 vised to incorporate the land transferred to the
23 Secretary of the Interior under subsection
24 (a)(1).

25 (B) MAP.—

14 (2) GILA NATIONAL FOREST.—

19 (B) MAP.—

