

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 708

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the designation of the Gila
Wilderness.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2024

Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted the following
resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the designation
of the Gila Wilderness.

Whereas on June 3, 1924, the Forest Service set aside
755,000 acres as the Gila Wilderness;

Whereas this was the first designated wilderness in the
United States and the world;

Whereas this designation marked the beginning of a national
system of wilderness areas and helped inspire the Wilder-
ness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.);

Whereas Aldo Leopold, a Forest Service employee in New
Mexico, worked to initiate a Federal wilderness concept
in the backcountry of what is now the Gila National For-
est;

Whereas Arthur Carhart, a Forest Service employee, argued that wilderness recreation would help to develop individual and national character;

Whereas the Apache and Mimbres people have been stewards of this land from time immemorial; and

Whereas, 100 years later, the character of the Gila Wilderness remains without permanent human-built structures, protected and managed to preserve this condition, and the wilderness remains a place unrestrained by human development: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That Congress commemorates the 100th
- 2 anniversary of the designation of the Gila Wilderness.

