



## **FIREWISE USA®**

**Residents reducing wildfire risks**

January 12, 2021

New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission  
1190 Saint Francis Drive  
Suite # South 2102  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Water Quality Control Commissioners,

The Greater Eastern Jemez Wildland Urban Interface Corporation (GEJWUIC) -- a 501(c)(3), Firewise USA organization located in the Jemez Mountains -- supports the protection of the East Fork, San Antonio Creek and the Jemez River upstream from the Village of Jemez Springs as "Outstanding Waters" in New Mexico. GEJWUIC believes that protecting the San Antonio Creek, East Fork of the Jemez, and Jemez River as Outstanding Waters (ONRWs) will ensure protection of the Jemez River and tributaries for generations to come. We also urge the consideration of the expansion of ONRW designation in the future to the Guadalupe River.

Outstanding Waters protections will prohibit new pollution from impacting our watershed while supporting and maintaining existing community uses. Outstanding Water protections are appropriate for our community because water quality is protected but new development or activities, as long as water pollution doesn't result from the activity, are not stopped or limited.

In addition, Outstanding Water protections will help us draw much needed attention and funding support for restoration and fuel management projects throughout the watershed. As stewards of the land we are aware of how watershed management measures in headwaters impact downstream ecosystems and communities, and we support efforts to ensure clean and clear headwaters of the Jemez Watershed.

We urge the Commission to act in your authority under the New Mexico Water Quality Act to designate the Jemez River, San Antonio Creek and the East Fork of Jemez as Outstanding Waters.

Sincerely,

Harrison Jones, President  
GEJWUIC

**RECEIVED**

By Water Quality Control Commission at 11:41 am, Jan 27, 2021



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January 12, 2021

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1190 Saint Francis Drive  
Suite # South 2102  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

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Sincerely,

Harrison Jones, President  
GEJWUIC

Attention to:  
New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission

1190 Saint Francis Drive  
Suite # South 2102  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
public.facilitation@state.nm.us

Re: WQCC 20-18(R)

Dear Commissioners:

We, the New Mexico Acequia Commission, add our support to the petition filed to nominate the Upper Pecos River for designation as an “Outstanding National Resource Waters” (**ONRW**). The New Mexico Acequia Commission represents the many Acequias that are dependent upon the Pecos River. We measure the Pecos River as a significant resource and view its designation as an **ONRW** of extreme importance.

Keeping the water of the Upper Pecos River pristine, will ensure that it can continue to be of beneficial use to New Mexico Acequias, agriculture, recreation, and ecological value. This benefit will be permanently possible only if options are exercised to preserve the quality of its waters.

We respectfully request that the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission protect the Upper Pecos River by supporting its nomination as a **ONRW** under the Federal Clean Water Act.

Thank you,



Ralph Vigil Chairman  
New Mexico Acequia Commission

**From:** [Ralph Vigil](#)  
**To:** [Public Facilitation, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] WQCC 20-18(R)  
**Date:** Saturday, March 6, 2021 7:41:02 AM  
**Attachments:** [ONRW.docx.pdf](#)

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To whom it may concern,

I am submitting a letter of support for the above referenced case number from the New Mexico Acequia Commission.

The New Mexico Acequia Commission was created in 1987 to advise the governor, the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on what criteria should be used to determine priorities for rehabilitating acequias under a new federal funding program. The Acequia Commission was established by statute by the 1993 Legislature as an eleven member commission serving four-year terms.

The Acequia Commission is also charged with the duties of serving as a facilitator for communication between local acequia organizations and the state and federal governments, and for reviewing plans or legislation that affect acequias and presenting their findings to the governor and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Ralph Vigil, Chair  
New Mexico Acequia Commission  
505-603-2879

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Ralph Vigil

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 16, 2021

Water Quality Control Commission  
1190 Saint Francis Drive  
Suite # South 2102  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
[Public.Facilitation@state.nm.us](mailto:Public.Facilitation@state.nm.us)

Re: WQCC 20-18(R)

Dear Commissioners:

We write to you today as you consider the Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW) designation for the Upper Pecos Watershed. To deliver on the promise of clean water for future generations, you have the authority to designate our most treasured waters as Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRWs). Upon hearing the testimony and the merits of the case for protection of this special watershed, we hope you will vote to support this effort.

We stand together with the Village of Pecos, San Miguel County, the New Mexico Acequia Association, the Upper Pecos Watershed Association, and Molino de la Isla Organics LLC on this petition. The iconic Upper Pecos watershed is the lifeblood of the region's economy, ecosystem and way of life. There are 55 acequias and traditional users in the watershed and they all rely on clean water. For generations, they have served as stewards of the river and lived by the values of "*Agua es vida.*"

The Pecos Business Association (PBA) relies on clean water to attract visitors and support the local economy. Hunters and anglers spent a combined \$47 million in 2013 in San Miguel County. Fly fishing guides have named the Upper Pecos 6<sup>th</sup> among the "11 best places to fly fish in NM." Hunters enjoy hunting for mule deer, elk and other species.

The growing outdoor economy of the region also attracts hiking, backpacking and wildlife viewing. These days, the area is vital for our local families with children to get outside. In the midst of this pandemic, we value opportunities for our children to get away from screens and technology and instead perhaps catch a fish or hike in nature.

We support this this ONRW designation to protect traditional agriculture and a way of life for our children and grandchildren and ask you to please support this nomination.

Sincerely,

/s/ Martin Heinrich  
MARTIN HEINRICH  
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

/s/ Ben Ray Luján  
BEN RAY LUJÁN  
Ben Ray Luján  
United States Senator

/s/ Teresa Leger Fernandez  
TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ  
Teresa Leger Fernandez  
United States Representative



# New Mexico State Senate

State Capitol  
Santa Fe

COMMITTEES:

~~CHAIR:~~  
• Conservation

MEMBER:  
• Public Affairs

**RECEIVED**

**APR 23 2021**

WACC

**SENATOR  
ELIZABETH "LIZ" STEFANICS**

D - Bernalillo, Lincoln, San Miguel, Santa Fe,  
Torrance & Valencia-39

P.O. Box 720  
Cerrillos, NM 87010

Home: (505) 471-7643

Cell: (505) 699-4808

E-mail: liz.stefanics@nmlegis.gov

April 16, 2021

Water Quality Control Commission  
1190 Saint Francis Drive  
Suite # South 2102  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

RE: NOMINATION OF THE WATERS OF THE UPPER PECOS WATERSHED AS  
OUTSTANDING NATIONAL RESOURCE WATERS

Dear Commissioners,

I write to request that you support the petition to nominate the Upper Pecos watershed as Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRWs).

The waters of the Upper Pecos Watershed are an important part of the Pecos community life – integral to fish, wildlife, wilderness, ecology, agriculture, and the economics of the area.

Fish and wildlife that travel from this nominated stretch to the tributaries and headwaters of Wilderness areas do not distinguish boundaries. Ecological and hydrological interconnectedness makes the nominated waters a significant attribute of the neighboring Pecos Wilderness.

One of the most effective ways to deliver on the promise of clean water for present and future generations is to designate our cleanest, most treasured waters as Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRWs)

Agua es vida. Please protect our Upper Pecos watershed by voting to support the petition for ONRW designation.

Thank you.

Senator Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics