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**CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-53**

**INTRODUCED BY:**

Councilor Renee D. Villarreal

Councilor Christopher M. Rivera

Councilor Peter N. Ives

**A RESOLUTION**

**SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE CORRIDORS IN THE UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN.**

**WHEREAS**, in the City of Santa Fe our wildlife is fundamental to our history, culture, and identity; and

**WHEREAS**, for centuries wildlife has been intertwined with the cultural fabric of the Upper Rio Grande Basin and has been integral in supporting thriving civilizations and our interaction with wildlife has fostered the creation of important cultural traditions which continue to be passed down today; and

**WHEREAS**, wildlife species can move considerable distances to meet their daily, seasonal, and ecological needs, and their movement often crosses multiple jurisdictional boundaries, including federal, state, tribal, city, county, and private lands; and

**WHEREAS**, public lands and waters provide vital habitat for hundreds of wildlife species and also include important corridors for wildlife to safely move and migrate across larger landscapes; and

1           **WHEREAS**, fragmentation such as, roads, fences, development, fires, and other human-  
2 created and natural barriers are increasingly making it more difficult for wildlife species to  
3 migrate safely across landscapes; and

4           **WHEREAS**, there exists a need and opportunity to foster increased collaboration among  
5 state, federal, tribal, and local governments to promote and protect landscape connectivity; and

6           **WHEREAS**, land managers from the Santa Fe National Forest have a role in identifying  
7 and addressing the importance of the National Forest in establishing connectivity for wildlife to  
8 safely move and migrate across forest lands; and

9           **WHEREAS**, Special Management Areas such as the proposed Caja del Rio Wildlife and  
10 Cultural Interpretive Management Area are areas of profound cultural and historical significance  
11 and are critical to wildlife habitat and connectivity; and

12           **WHEREAS**, the Caja del Rio, also known as La Bajada, is located directly adjacent to  
13 the City of Santa Fe and was recognized in 2003 by the New Mexico Preservation Alliance as one  
14 of New Mexico's "most endangered places" as it is home to thousands of wildlife species,  
15 including elk, mule deer, burrowing owls, black bear, golden eagles, and cougar and serves as a  
16 key wildlife migration corridor; and

17           **WHEREAS**, the Caja del Rio contains invaluable archaeological and cultural resources  
18 including the La Cienguilla Petroglyph site, iconic portions of the El Camino Real de Tierra  
19 Adentro, and Route 66.

20           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**  
21 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that Congress is urged to act swiftly to enact the Wildlife Corridors  
22 Conservation Act in order to mitigate connectivity issues by establishing a grants program to  
23 support habitat connectivity for migrating species.

24           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body expresses support for the  
25 Santa Fe National Forest to adopt and establish the Caja del Rio Wildlife and Cultural

1 Interpretive Management Area, which would provide protection for wildlife corridors as well as  
2 preserve important cultural and archaeological sites.


3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk forward a copy of this Resolution to  
4 the entire New Mexico Congressional Delegation and the Regional Forester of the Santa Fe  
5 National Forest to express support for the protection of wildlife corridors in the Upper Rio  
6 Grande Basin.

7 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 30<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019.

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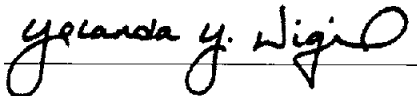
ALAN M. WEBBER, MAYOR

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ATTEST:

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YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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*Legislation/2019/Resolutions/2019-53 Wildlife Corridor Protection Support*