



# *Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission*

Resolution 04-2019

RE: Support for the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2018

At a duly called meeting of the Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission Board of Directors on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2019, the following resolution was adopted:

**WHEREAS**, the Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission (SWTFC) is a coalition of southwestern Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations formed in 2002, and organized in 2007 as a non-profit corporation in the State of New Mexico, for the purpose of promoting tribal self-determination through the development of sustainable recreational and native fisheries programs on tribal lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the SWTFC is concerned with the overall health of fish, wildlife, wildlands, watersheds, fish habitat, and waterways throughout the Southwest both on and off the lands of its member tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, fish species can move considerable distances to meet their life history requirements, and this movement often crosses multiple jurisdictional boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, tribal waters and watersheds provide vital habitat for hundreds of fish and wildlife species and include important corridors for wildlife across larger landscapes; and

**WHEREAS**, habitat connectivity is acknowledged as an important mechanism to reduce the impact of human activities and the changing climate; and

**WHEREAS**, fragmentation such as dams, roads, development and other barriers are increasingly making it difficult for fish and wildlife to migrate and move safely across the landscape; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to increase tribal capacity to develop wildlife and fisheries management strategies and a establish a framework for advancing fisheries and watershed habitat connectivity projects; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to foster respectful collaboration among tribal, state and federal land managers to promote habitat connectivity; and

**WHEREAS**, tribes are currently excluded from Interior Secretarial Order 3362 which aims to improve wildlife corridor and habitat connectivity; and

**WHEREAS**, tribes have limited access to sustainable funding streams to provide for their management planning and other capacity needs to address fisheries and wildlife habitat.



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**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission hereby supports the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act that aims to mitigate connectivity issues by establishing both National and Tribal Wildlife Corridors, a grants program and database to deliver habitat connectivity for native fish and other species.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the SWTFC supports the inclusions of tribes in such legislation and that tribal inclusion can provide resources to assist Tribes with their wildlife and habitat connectivity efforts on their own lands.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the SWTFC calls for the Secretary of Interior to expand Secretarial Order 3362 to include the nations federally recognized tribes.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the SWTFC is supportive of collaboration and cooperative efforts among tribal, state, federal, and private land managers to protect wildlife corridors and other habitat connectivity needs across large landscapes on and off tribal lands.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob A. Mazzone".

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Mr. Jacob A. Mazzone, Chairman  
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission

## **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that there were (9) of the Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission appointed representatives of the (18) member tribes present at the above meeting, at which (9) voted for, and (0) voted against, and (0) abstained, it being a quorum and the above resolution was passed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Whiteman".

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Mr. Steve Whiteman, Secretary-Treasurer  
Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission