



New Mexico Wildlife Federation
6100 Seagull St NE,
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Senator Tom Udall

May 16th, 2019

531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Senator Udall,

The New Mexico Wildlife Federation has been working for over a century for the state's sporting community. With approximately 80,000 followers, we have advocated for a variety of conservation issues that protect wildlife, clean water, and public lands. We would like to offer support for your leadership on the Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2018. This legislation will be a significant step forward in 21st century wildlife management, and will help wildlife thrive across public, state, tribal, and private lands in New Mexico.

The State of New Mexico and the Southwest region have an incredible diversity of fish and wildlife that inhabit its waters and lands. From trout in pristine mountain streams, to pronghorn on the open plains, the wildlife of New Mexico create incredible outdoor experiences for hunters, anglers, and all outdoor enthusiasts. Wildlife corridors will remove barriers to species that need to move both daily and seasonally to survive, and will enable wildlife to better track range shifts as temperature and precipitation patterns alter habitats.

The Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2019 will build on years of successful wildlife conservation in New Mexico. For example, the efforts to improve habitat connectivity in the Upper Rio Grande Watershed have led to ongoing collaboration between local, state, federal, tribal and non-profit agencies and organizations to better understand and protect key migration paths for elk and mule deer across the Colorado-New Mexico state line.

As a nonprofit, member-driven organization working across the state, New Mexico Wildlife Federation has seen firsthand the challenges facing wildlife managers. Habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation are making on-the-ground conservation efforts more challenging, and resources to confront these threats are limited. This legislation will help fund efforts to identify connectivity priorities across the state and region, reduce vehicle collisions with wildlife, increase cross-state collaboration, and improve collaboration between public, state, tribal, and private lands stakeholders. Your continued support on this issue, and elevation of the importance of wildlife corridors, is greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with you on these efforts next Congress, and ask for your continued leadership on this important conservation topic.

Sincerely,

John Crenshaw, President, New Mexico Wildlife Federation