

Wild Gila River Water Development Project Defeated

Wild and Scenic River bill now pending

Floating by 2014 proposed dam site in March 2020



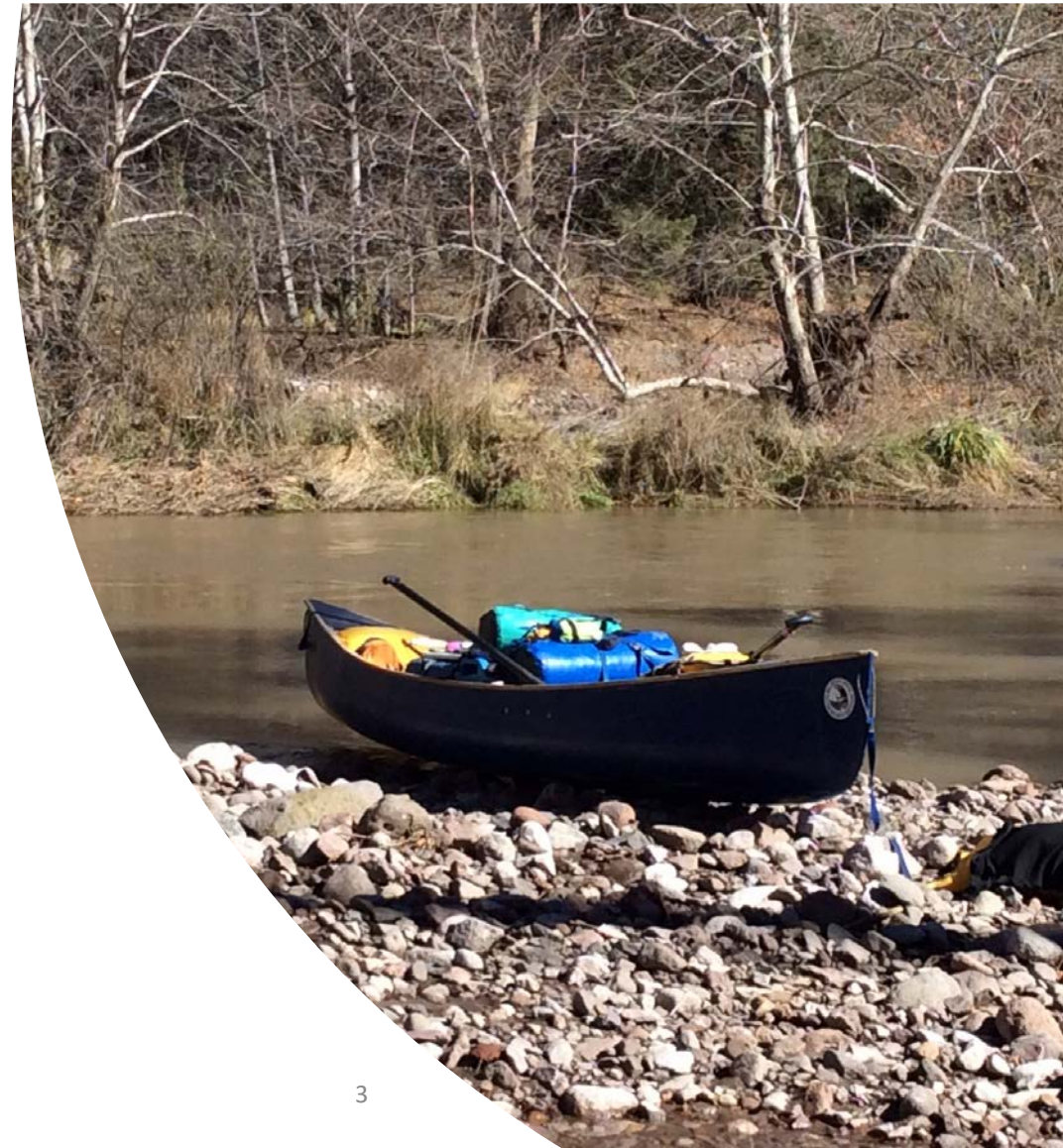
New Mexico Public Stream Access Litigation

Barricade on Pecos River erected by
absentee Texas oil man's trust

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My Motivation: Love for the Wild Gila River / Protect from Government Abuses and Lies

- Aldo Leopold in 1924 protected the headwaters of the Gila River as the USA's first wilderness
- Backpacked the Gila Wilderness as a young man—1970s
 - Scary river crossings during spring floods
 - Decided to run the river
- Dozens of Gila Wilderness three-day canoe trips—early 1980s to date
- Wild Gila River advocate 2014 to date
- Gila Wild and Scenic River bill would protect permanently





Key Opposition Factors in Gila River Developers' \$16 Million Fail

- Political engagement and support
- Relentless use of public records and open government laws
- Bringing to light the real facts and science
- Effective communications
- Core team and engaged supporters
- Perseverance

Gila Success Lessons Learned

- Partners were essential
- Biggest hurdle was opponents seemingly limitless resources; perseverance was the solution
- What advice do you have for ACA members who want to become more involved in their local public policy issues?
 - Get Involved. Seek Allies. Get Organized.
 - Partners/NGOs. Press. Plan. Political and Public Engagement and Communications.
 - Understand the relevant facts, science, and economics.
 - Access public records.
 - Find a good lawyer who wants to help.



Public Stream Access Legal Action

Partners and Lawyers
Essential in Taking the
Fight to the Rich
Privatizers

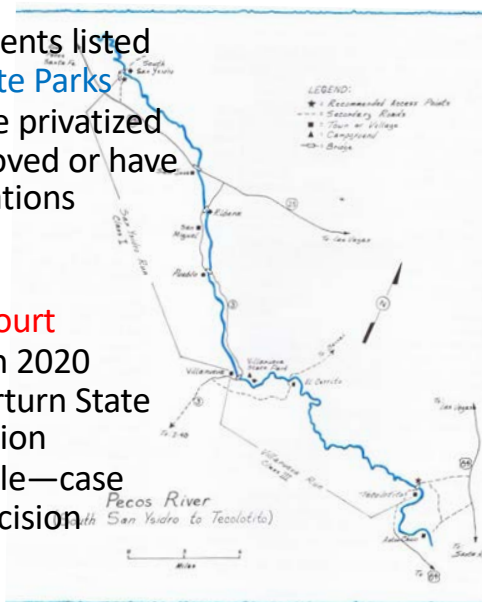


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Rich absentee landowners have subverted New Mexico's constitutional public stream access rights

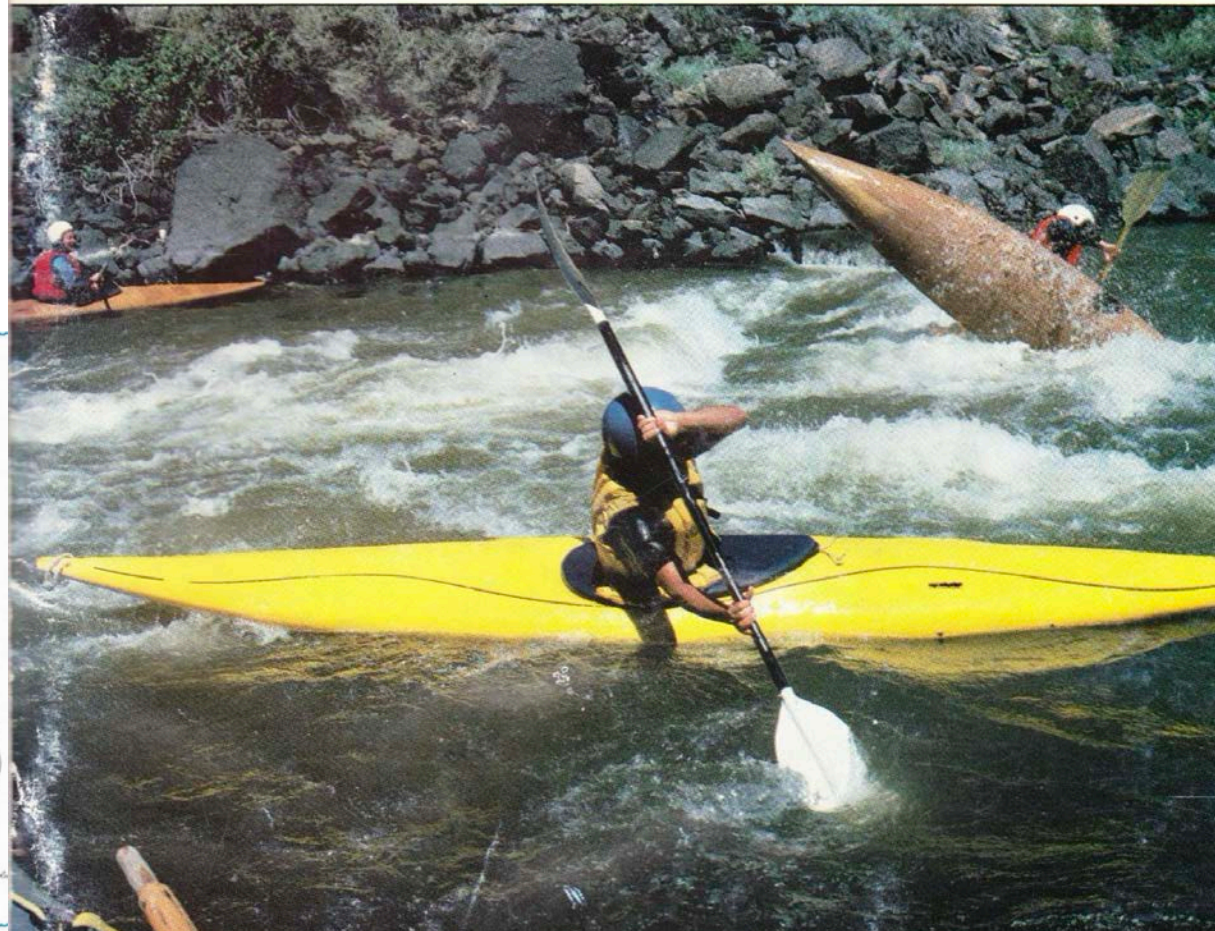
Four river segments listed in this [1983 State Parks Guidebook](#) have privatized segments approved or have pending applications

NM Supreme Court accepted March 2020 **Petition** to Overturn State Game Commission Privatization Rule—case awaits court decision



New Mexico Whitewater

A Guide to River Trips



Petitioners



<https://www.adobewhitewater.org/stream-access>

“New Mexico Paddlers Coalition”



Success Factors

- Partners with command of issues and supportive public policy positions
- Engaged national NGOs as participants and stakeholders
- Engaged coalition and grass roots supporters/stakeholders
- Effective communications—press and public
- Engaged politicians and officials
- Fundraising
- Good lawyers

Getting Started

- Get involved, do homework
- Seek allies
- Get organized
- Make a plan
- Get productive work done
- Adjust
- Repeat

Policy Engagement Success Factors & Advice

