Greetings! Let us introduce you, once more, to our Aldo’s Silver City Chapter of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness (GOBW), a National grassroots organization led by women which engages and inspires activism to preserve and protect wild lands. It is also a non-profit, all-volunteer group. Several of our local chapter steering committee members had the opportunity to meet you in person in Silver City and were gratified with your attention to our concerns.

We are writing now to convey our strong support for funding to implement recommendations within the Wildlife Corridors Action Plan for New Mexico. In addition to the overriding highway and human safety concerns, we hope the recommended actions will increase species’ survival chances, critical in these days of encroaching humanity and technology on wildlife habitat and diminishing water resources. As seen in videos from other states, numerous species use wildlife corridors to pass safely across roadways.

Our local GOBW chapter reviewed and commented on the draft Wildlife Corridors Action Plan and remain willing to advocate for its implementation. We are pleased with the well-crafted final plan, including the recommendations for high priority actions (culverts, overpasses, bridges) for the Silver City and Arenas Valley / Bayard area. We see the crucial need for such wildlife crossings in this area as evidenced by the near-daily carnage on our roads.

Additionally, we support funding for corridor recommendations targeting the relevant area on I-10 in southwest New Mexico in the Peloncillo Mountain region, to wit: overpass structures to allow desert bighorn to cross over I-10, and underpass structures for other animals such as black bear, bobcat, Mexican gray wolves, and jaguar. Wildlife corridors are critical to sustain migration, diversity and habitat needs in the Sky Island areas of southwest New Mexico.

We hope that you and other state legislators are actively seeking ways to fund this important plan. We look forward to hearing your ideas regarding potential funding sources and actions to be taken to obtain funds. We are, again, committing to help you achieve success through letters of support or any other assistance.

Sincerely,

Marcia Stout and Denise Smith, Co-leaders

Aldo’s Silver City Broadband of Great Old Broads for Wilderness