

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the Wilderness Act 50 years ago, with an overwhelming bipartisan vote, and President Lyndon Johnson signed this farsighted legislation into law on September 3, 1964; and

WHEREAS, the Wilderness Act created our National Wilderness Preservation System of federal lands to be “administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and will provide for the protection of these areas and the preservation of their wilderness character;” and

WHEREAS, the Wilderness Act made it the “policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness in order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no land designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition;” and

WHEREAS, wilderness, “in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is recognized as federal land retaining the primeval character and influence which generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable, and has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation;” and

WHEREAS, President Barak Obama said in proclaiming every September during his first term as National Wilderness Month: “The mystery and wonder of wilderness is deeply rooted in our national character. For many of the first Americans – American Indians and Alaska Natives – the wilderness provided a source of sustenance and a foundation for their ways of life. Later, as explorers and pioneers of a young country moved west, they found adventure and new beginnings in the landscapes of our nation. From our earliest days, America’s identity has been tied to the powerful waterfalls, soaring peaks, and vast plains of its land;” and

WHEREAS, wilderness areas are important to Pima County and Tucson for the enjoyment of citizens and tourists as six wilderness areas are entirely in Pima County – Pusch Ridge, Saguaro, Rincon Mountains, Baboquivari Peak, Coyote Mountains and Organ Pipe. Two more wilderness areas – Mount Wrightson and Cabeza Prieta – are partly in Pima County; and

WHEREAS, Pima County is one of only two counties in the nation that has wilderness areas managed by all four wilderness-managing federal agencies – Forest Service, Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, wilderness areas in Pima County are important for their recreation opportunities, for clean air, for clean water, for groundwater recharge, and for their diverse and abundant wildlife;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims the month of September 2014 to be:

“CELEBRATION OF WILDERNESS MONTH”

and encourages all Pima County residents to celebrate the Wilderness Act of 1964.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of August 2014.

The Honorable Sharon Bronson, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Robin Brigode, Clerk
Pima County Board of Supervisors