

PIMA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS WATCHABLE WILDLIFE RESOLUTION

A Resolution to Support Development of Watchable Wildlife as an Economic Resource in the Eastern Pima County Region

Whereas, the region is in great need of economic stimulus and our local governments seek to enhance our economic vigor;

Whereas, tourism and visitors contribute substantially to the economic vitality of the region through lodgings, food, transportation and employment, with watchable wildlife contributing around \$1.5 billion annually in total economic impact to the state's overall economy.

Whereas, birds are the most common watchable wildlife to be photographed, fed or observed;

Whereas, protection of bird habitat is critical to preserve the places where birds and wildlife can thrive;

Whereas, Arizona is one of the premier destination states for birding because it is one of the top three states for bird diversity and because more than half of all North American bird species occur in Arizona including several species that cannot be reliably found anywhere else in the United States;

Whereas, there are numerous superb local and regional birding sites including Sweetwater Wetlands, Avra Valley Wastewater Reclamation Facility, Mount Lemmon, Sabino Canyon, Reid Park, Catalina State Park, Madera Canyon, the Nature Conservancy's Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, the Wilcox Playa, Ramsey Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains, and Cave Creek in the Chiricahua Mountains;

Whereas, eastern Pima County is the birding headquarters for southeastern Arizona;

Whereas, bird tourism is an untapped opportunity for marketing our region;

Whereas, the number of birders visiting, dining and finding lodgings in the region can be increased significantly by tournaments such as World Cup of Birding, festivals such as the Tucson Bird and Wildlife Festival, and marketing tools such as Tucson birdfinding guides, field guides and birding trail maps;

In Consideration Thereof, the PAG Regional Council:

Encourages continued support of the watchable wildlife industry and the health of our environment and recognizes them as valuable elements contributing to the strength of our economy.