Janet Napolitano
Governor

Office of the Governor

*** ARIZONA RIVERS MONTH ***

WHEREAS, Arizona has few remaining perennially flowing rivers and is committed to protecting those that do remain, such as the San Pedro River, the Verde River, Fossil Creek, Oak Creek, the Little Colorado River, the Santa Maria River, the Bill Williams River, and Cienega Creek; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life in Arizona is particularly enhanced by the vitality of our precious and rare flowing rivers; and

WHEREAS, residents of Arizona hike, camp, kayak, float, fish, ride horses, and recreate along these rivers; and

WHEREAS, giant, river-dependent cottonwood and willow trees provide shelter and shade to people and wildlife, and petroglyphs in Arizona canyons along rivers provide evidence of human habitation stretching back thousands of years; and

WHEREAS, Arizona rivers provide crucial riparian habitat for many mammal species—the San Pedro has the second highest diversity of mammals in the world, and the Verde supports the only population of river otters in the State—and have some of the highest densities of breeding birds in the United States. Sensitive and rare avian species, such as the western yellow-billed cuckoo, southwestern willow flycatcher and Arizona's bald eagle depend on flowing desert rivers; and

WHEREAS, more than half of the State's native fish are classified as Wildlife of Special Concern in Arizona and are listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, in Arizona, three-quarters of all vertebrate species depend on riparian habitat for at least some portion of their life cycles; and

WHEREAS, Arizona rivers face increasing pressure and threats as our population and water needs grow and due to the potential erosion of protections under recent U.S. Supreme Court and federal agency decisions implementing the Clean Water Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim April 2008 as

*** ARIZONA RIVERS MONTH ***

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

Janet Napolitano

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this eighth day of April in the year Two Thousand and Eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-second.

ATTEST:

Janice K. Brewer

Secretary of State