



February 11, 2016

Scott Cooke
Safford Field Manager
BLM - Safford Field Office
711 14th Avenue
Safford, AZ 85546

RE: Support for Santa Teresa Wilderness Access Project

Dear Mr. Cooke:

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) is a 501c-3 non-profit organization whose mission is to educate and inform sportsmen, wildlife conservation organizations throughout the state and the public at large on important issues related to wildlife and wildlife habitat, and to provide, via grants or other sources, funding to conserve Arizona's wildlife populations through habitat enhancement initiatives. The organization is comprised of twenty five member groups, affiliate members, and partner organizations whose goals and objectives are consistent with the mission of AZSFWC.

Among other initiatives, AZSFWC has been an advocate for the current efforts to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund since protection of public lands, particularly for wildlife habitat, and recreational access to those lands is an important issue for many of our constituents.

We understand that BLM is working in partnership with The Trust for Public Land to acquire a private ranch– the ET Ranch – that is adjacent to BLM's North Santa Teresa Wilderness Area and could provide access for sportsmen and other recreational users into this Area and the adjacent Forest Service Santa Teresa Wilderness Area. We also understand that the landowner is a willing seller of those lands to BLM.

Such a project could provide great benefit for access into this spectacular part of Arizona's BLM lands. It is a classic example of how so much of Arizona's public lands are inaccessible to the public, particularly in this beautiful Sky Island part of our state.

AZSFWC letter supporting BLM acquisition of the ET Ranch – 2-11-2016

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation
PO Box 12590 Glendale, AZ 85318

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation supports plans to provide improved access into the Santa Teresa Wilderness Areas through the acquisition of this ranch, and we support the use of BLM's Recreational Access funds for such a project.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Yours in Conservation,



Jim Unmacht
President

AZSFWC Member groups supporting the BLM acquisition of the ET Ranch to provide improved access into the Santa Teresa Wilderness Area

Anglers United
AZ Antelope Foundation
AZ Bass Federation Nation
AZ Big Game Super Raffle
AZ Bowhunters Association
AZ Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation
AZ Chapter Safari Club International
AZ Council of Trout Unlimited
AZ Deer Association
AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
AZ Elk Society
AZ Houndsmen
Coconino Sportsmen
Mohave Sportsman Club
Outdoor Experience 4 All
South Eastern AZ Sportsmen Club
SRT Outdoors
The BASS Federation
Xtreme Predator Callers
1.2.3.Go...

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