



April 3, 2015

The Honorable Doug Ducey
Governor of Arizona
Executive Tower
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

sent via email

RE: Arizona Public Lands transfer bills

Dear Governor Ducey,

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) is a 501c-3 nonprofit organization composed of 25 outdoor recreation, wildlife conservation, and sportsmen's groups, representing thousands of Arizona sportsmen. Our 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. We are also the sponsor of the "Conserving Wildlife" license plate, utilizing those funds towards our Mission.

On behalf of 23 of our member organizations, AZSFWC urges you to veto HB 2176, HB 2318 and HB 2658. If similar measures are passed by the Legislature, we ask that you handle those bills in the same manner. While we recognize not every sportsman is against this type of legislation, clearly the majority is, and we urge you to respect that sentiment!

Candidly we are not enamored with everything the Federal government does in the course of managing our public lands, but those lands in Arizona and across our Nation are available to all Americans for hunting, fishing, camping and other forms of recreation. Sportsmen know firsthand that criticizing the management of federal public lands is easy, but we also know that the transfer of these lands to individual states would not be a legitimate option for addressing management challenges. Arizona already has enough challenges in managing the land currently in their purview, and would not be equipped to

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

support the enormous costs associated with fighting wildfires, maintaining roads and trails, treating noxious weeds and conducting habitat restoration with the addition of millions of more acres added to their responsibility.

One likely result of state ownership would be the sale of some of that public land to private interests, which would effectively eliminate our access to what is left, compounding a problem that exists now, and reducing the land available not just for Arizonans, but all Americans to recreate on those lands. It would also have an adverse economic impact on the over \$1 Billion dollars generated by sportsmen when hunting, fishing and recreating on public land in Arizona. That figure doesn't even consider the positive economic impact sportsmen and outdoor recreationists have on our small towns and rural communities because of those activities.

So with that said Governor, we urge you to reject these bills. Sportsmen have concerns on how the Federal government manages our public lands, but we do not believe the answer lies in transferring ownership of those public lands to the State.

A list of our member organizations urging you to veto these bills is attached.

Yours in Conservation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Unmacht', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Unmacht
President

AZSFWC Member Organizations against Public Lands transfer bills

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

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