



AZSFWC RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE TRANSFER OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS TO THE STATE

WHEREAS, Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) is a 501-c-3 organization whose mission is to educate and inform sportsmen and women, wildlife conservation organizations throughout the state and the public at large on important issues related to wildlife and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, AZSFWC is comprised of thirty-nine member, associate, and affiliate organizations whose goals and objectives are consistent with the mission of AZSFWC: and

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona has 23.5 million acres of publicly accessible National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands which provide fish and wildlife with irreplaceable habitat, and at the same time provides sportsmen and women with unmatched opportunities to hunt, fish and recreate; and

WHEREAS, these lands support Arizona's \$21.2 billion outdoor recreation economy; and

WHEREAS, nearly three-quarters of Western sportsmen and women depend on public lands for hunting; and

WHEREAS, our Nation had foresight to set aside lands in reserve for the sake of all Americans, recognizing some resources must be managed at the Federal level; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Arizona citizens voted by a 2-1 margin to oppose public land transfer to the State of Arizona: and

WHEREAS, costs of fire suppression are growing exponentially at the national level, averaging annually over \$1.6 billion nationally with a record \$2.9 billion in 2017, with a per state cost which is impossible to predict on a year by year basis; and

WHEREAS, Arizona's budget is inadequate to fully support and manage its own lands, including state forestry and state lands for land management, and often must depend upon federal support in emergencies such as wildfires and floods; and

WHEREAS, national emergencies often require landscape-level strategies to protect our communities and natural landscapes, while at the same time requiring financial support shared by the Nation to protect these national reserves that often can far exceed state and local capabilities and capacity; and

WHEREAS, the likely result of state ownership would be the sale of public lands to private interests resulting in loss of public access for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation opportunities;

WHEREAS, there is broad consensus among Arizona sportsmen and women that effective management of our federal public lands requires a collaborative approach with the appropriate federal, state, county, and other local stakeholders to improve public land management and public access; so

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by AZSFWC and its member organizations listed below, that we oppose any effort to claim, take over, litigate for, or sell off federal public lands within the State of Arizona except pursuant to processes established by Congress in the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act and other applicable laws.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE AZSFWC BOARD
ON THIS 26th DAY OF OCTOBER 2021.**

AZSFWC Organizations in support of this Resolution

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 Flycasters Club
AZ Houndsmen's Association
AZ Outdoor Adventures
AZ Outdoor Sports
AZ Predator Callers
AZ Taxidermy Association
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers – AZ Chapter
Christian Hunters of America
Mohave Sportsman Club
Mule Deer Foundation
Outdoor Experience 4 All
Southern AZ Quail Forever
Southwest Wildlife Foundation
SRT Outdoors
The BASS Federation
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
The Trust for Public Land
Valley of the Sun Quail Forever
Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club