



August 19, 2022

Submitted via email:

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/78300/595/8003007/comment>

Chelsea M. McKinney
Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Hassayampa Field Office
21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85027

RE: Black Canyon Corridor Travel Management Plan

Dear Ms. McKinney,

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Black Canyon Corridor Travel Management Plan (TMP).

AZSFWC is a 501c-3 organization dedicated to wildlife conservation, habitat improvement, youth recruitment and retention, as well as educating outdoor enthusiasts on issues important to their passions. AZSFWC member organizations reach across the spectrum of wildlife conservation, hunting, angling, shooting sports, outdoor recreation groups and businesses from across Arizona, representing more than 25,000 people.

In March of 2021 Director Suazo and Deputy Director Davis joined our monthly Board meeting and we shared some of our concerns about maintaining reasonable access for hunting, other forms of outdoor recreation, and wildlife management, all the while ensuring adequate resource protection. Since that time, we have had ongoing dialog with Deputy Director Davis on our desire to provide input in the numerous travel management planning that was forthcoming, so we appreciate that the public process has been re-opened for the Black Canyon Corridor TMP.

Reopening this TMP is a positive step that we believe should also be applied to the many other Arizona plans that were temporarily put on hold in 2017-2018. The importance of both the public and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) input during the planning process is critical in our opinion, and even more so with the mandates set forth by the 2019 Dingell Act.

The area covered by this TMP has experienced an exponential increase in motorized use, much of which is associated with recreational OHV traffic by private individuals and rental outfitters. All this is occurring on an area with a long history and abundant opportunities

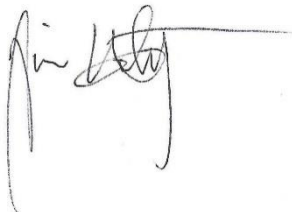
for hunting mule deer, javelina, and small game. The close proximity to the Phoenix Metro area makes it of particular value.

AZSFWC offers the following comments focused on balancing these multiple uses:

1. We appreciate BLM coordination with AZGFD in developing this TMP. AZGFD has invested enormous time and resources into this planning process, in order to best serve the hunting public and fulfill their trust responsibility for managing native wildlife. Continued coordination with AZGFD is critical to our support.
2. We support the Proposed Action (Alternative C) conditioned on three modifications:
 - a. Existing disturbed campsites and spur roads accessing them remain open to the public ("Open to All Use").
 - b. The list of activities for Priority Access (EA p. 10) in the project area is amended to include wildlife water developments maintained by AZGFD.
 - c. Access to long-used areas important for hunting and dispersed camping is retained, with these road segments classified as "Open to All Use": BC1001, BC1036, BC1083, BC1088, BC1100, BC1103, BC1110, BC1129, BC1131, BC1132, BC1159, BC1161, BC1173, BC1182, BC1184, BC1184, BC1185, BC1192, BC1215, BC1218, BC1274, BC1300, BC1334, BC1336.
3. Signage related to access for travel and dispersed camping is clear and readily understood by visitors.

Thank you for your consideration of our input and comments.

Yours in Conservation,



Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

CC: Ray Suazo, State Director
Jerry Davis, Deputy State Director, Resources and Planning