



November 2, 2016

Christy Goldfuss
Managing Director
White House Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place, NW
Washington DC 20503

RE: Proposed monument north of the Colorado River

Dear Managing Director Goldfuss:

Please recall Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) wrote you on March 30, 2016 of this year on this same subject.

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.

Our organization is comprised of thirty member groups, affiliate members, and partner organizations, whose goals and objectives are consistent with the mission of AZSFWC. Our member organizations are a diverse cross section of sportsmen and women, representing wildlife and fish conservation groups, hunting, angling and shooting groups, along with several outdoor recreation organizations. Our member organizations represent almost 10,000 Arizona sportsmen and women.

On behalf of the thousands of Arizona sportsmen and women represented by AZSFWC and the 21 member groups listed on the last page of this letter, we continue to remain opposed to any monument that includes the Arizona Strip and Kaibab National Forest lands compromising the 1.7 million acres under consideration for such a monument.

Our March 30th letter mentioned the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership's report entitled "*National Monuments: a Sportsmen's Perspective*". The significance of that report outlines eight key tenets that must be met to gain widespread hunter and angler support for any new national monuments.

AZSFWC letter to White House CEQ reiterating opposition to Grand Canyon NM – 11-2-2016

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

Several recently named National Monuments are highlighted in the report and cited as examples of cooperative efforts bringing designated lands to National Monument status. However, the points of those eight tenants have not been reached regarding the proposed monument north of the Colorado River and clearly have not met expectations regarding this proposed monument.

We frequently hear uranium mining is one of the drivers behind the monument proponents' efforts. However there already is a moratorium on mining on those lands until 2032. In addition, the 1906 declaration of the Grand Canyon Game Preserve by President Theodore Roosevelt included a mineral exclusion on the North Kaibab, so mining has previously been excluded from those lands.

While the Antiquities Act has been a powerful conservation tool, our organization believes it should only be used in a thoughtful and inclusive manner. In some states, organized sportsmen groups and businesses have supported new monuments, notably in Colorado and New Mexico. That level of support and inclusiveness **does not** exist in Arizona for the proposed "Grand Canyon National Monument".

National Monuments are special places for our country but we can ensure Arizona's beautiful landscape and abundant wildlife is properly managed and conserved by the continued cooperation and partnership of the AZGFD, USFS and BLM, without the necessity of another national monument designation. That partnership is not broken, and we do not believe another layer of bureaucracy is needed to conserve or "protect" 1.7 million more acres on the Arizona Strip or Kaibab National Forest.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours in Conservation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Unmacht". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Unmacht
President

CC:
AZ Game & Fish Commission
AZ Congressional Delegation
AZ Governor Doug Ducey
Tommy Beaudreau, Chief of Staff, DOI
Robert Bonnie, Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment, USDA

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AZSFWC Member Organizations Opposed to a “Grand Canyon National Monument”

AZ Bass Federation Nation
AZ Big Game Super Raffle
AZ Bowhunters Association
AZ Catfish Conservation Association
AZ Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation
AZ Chapter Safari Club International
AZ Deer Association
AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
AZ Elk Society
AZ Flycasters Club
AZ Houndsmen
AZ Outdoor Sports
Coconino Sportsmen
Mohave Sportsman’s Club
Outdoor Experience 4 All
South Eastern AZ Sportsmen Club
SRT Outdoors
The Bass Federation
White Mountain Lakes Foundation
Xtreme Predator Callers
1.2.3.Go...

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