



September 23, 2015

Teresa Chase, Supervisor  
Prescott National Forest  
2971 Willow Creek Road  
Prescott, AZ 86301

**RE: Support for Yavapai Ranch Project**

Dear Supervisor Chase:

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) is a 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 twenty four member groups and an affiliate member 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. We have also advocated for conservation with respect to public lands, particularly for wildlife habitat, and recreational access to those lands as important issues for many of our members and constituents.

We understand that the Prescott National Forest is working in partnership with The Trust for Public Land to acquire private lands within the large checkerboard area of Yavapai Ranch. In conversation with the landowner Fred Ruskin, we understand he is willing to sell some of his land to the Forest Service. Such a project to consolidate these lands into Forest Service ownership would provide a great benefit for access into this part of the National Forest and also prevent the fragmentation of Forest Service lands if any of the surrounding sections of private land were ever to be developed. We believe this would only enhance the value of the surrounding Forest Service land for the benefit of wildlife and the public that would have a desire to recreate on that land.

AZSFWC supports plans to add these private lands to the Prescott National Forest through their acquisition. We also support the Forest Service's request of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund that may be made available for such acquisitions.

AZSFWC letter supporting sale of some Yavapai Ranch lands to Prescott National Forest – 9-23-2015

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

AZSFWC is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to wildlife, habitat conservation work and educating sportsmen on related issues. Our member organizations reach across the spectrum of hunting, angling and outdoor recreation groups from all over Arizona. Collectively, we believe the acquisition of these Yavapai Ranch lands would have a positive effect and impact on the wildlife in the area, and as well be a positive thing for sportsmen and the general public.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Yours in Conservation,

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

Jim Unmacht  
President

cc:

Michael Patrick, The Trust for Public Land  
Fred Ruskin, Yavapai Ranch



**AZSFWC Member groups supporting the acquisition of some  
Yavapai Ranch lands by the Prescott National Forest**

Anglers United  
AZ Antelope Foundation  
AZ Bass Federation Nation  
AZ Big Game Super Raffle  
AZ Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation  
AZ Deer Association  
AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society  
AZ Flycasters Club  
AZ Houndsmen  
AZ Outdoor Sports  
Coconino Sportsmen  
Mohave Sportsman Club  
Outdoor Experience 4 All  
SRT Outdoors  
The BASS Federation  
Xtreme Predator Callers  
1.2.3.Go...

AZSFWC letter supporting sale of some Yavapai Ranch lands to Prescott National Forest – 9-23-2015

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