



May 8, 2015

Senator John McCain
241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Grand Canyon Bison Management Act, S.782

Dear Senator McCain:

On behalf of Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) and 14 of our member organizations, we applaud your efforts on behalf of sportsmen in the form of Senate Bill 782, the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act!

On June 6, 2014, we provided input and comment to the National Park Service (NPS) for their Bison Management Plan and EIS during this Public Scoping period as follows:

- NPS should construct bison proof enclosures to protect riparian areas, other water sources and sensitive archaeological and historical sites. This action would be consistent throughout the rest of the state where landowners must fence out wildlife, livestock and other species they do not want on their property. It would also allow park visitors to continue viewing this native, iconic animal, which just happens to be on the NPS logo.
- NPS should develop a bison education plan for park visitors, including a history of the bison in and around the park, the ongoing management plan underway, as well as safety matters when encountering these animals.
- While the NPS develops plans to enhance the bison herd's migration away from sensitive areas, they should also work at improving forage, range and water sources for the herd to ensure those efforts are successful at desired locations.
- **Most importantly, if baiting, soft handling, herding and hazing don't work to move the bison, any lethal removal of the animals should be coordinated with the AZGFD, using "skilled public volunteers" aka sportsmen with tags!**
- **We understand "hunting" is not allowed on the GCNP, but it only makes economic sense to utilize "skilled public volunteers" who are willing to pay**

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to harvest/lethally remove a bison, versus having the NPS pay a contractor to do it.

- **These population reduction measures on the GCNP could use “skilled public volunteers” selected through the AZGFD draw application process and licensed accordingly. The successful applicants could attend an information session prior to the pursuit to harvest. The controlled harvests could be scheduled at such times when access to the GCNP is limited by road conditions or the season, and could be undertaken with both the guidance of AZGFD and GCNP personnel as well. In addition to the potential harvest of designated animals, compliance with all rules and regulations both by the GCNP and AZGFD would be understood, including designated weapon type, proper firearms handling, and elimination of any wanton waste of a harvested animal.**

Noting particularly the bullet points in bold, we're pleased S.782 tracks with our input to the NPS.

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation is a 501c-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.

Thank you for your efforts to get this bill passed!

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 Groups Supporting Input to the National Park Service on the Bison Management Plan

AZ Antelope Foundation
AZ Bass Federation Nation
AZ Big Game Super Raffle
AZ Bowhunters Association
AZ Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation
AZ Deer Association
AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
AZ Elk Society
AZ Houndsmen
Coconino Sportsmen
Outdoor Experience 4 All
SRT Outdoors
The BASS Federation
1.2.3.Go...

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