



## **A RESOLUTION of the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation concerning the loss of multiple-use public lands due to special land-use designations**

WHEREAS, public land in Arizona can provide enormous opportunity for Arizona's sportsmen and women for a variety of recreational uses, and

WHEREAS, the conservation of wildlife resources is the trust responsibility of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, to ensure that abundant wildlife resources perpetuate for both present and future generations, and

WHEREAS, federal lands make up 42 percent of Arizona, and more than 43 percent of those lands have special land use designations including National Monuments, National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National Conservation Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Wilderness Characteristics Areas which prescribe significant restrictions to recreation and management, resulting in only 23 percent of Arizona's lands remaining open for public use and free from those limitations, and

WHEREAS, with more than 4.5 million acres, Arizona has the fourth highest total of designated wilderness acreage in the U.S. This, coupled with an additional 5.8 million acres of special land use designations, has caused the systematic loss of sportsmen and women's recreational opportunities and the commensurate erosion of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's ability to proactively fulfill their Mission to manage wildlife on more than 10.3 million acres, and

WHEREAS, sportsmen and women have experienced loss or reduction of vehicular access to hunting and angling areas, restrictions on dispersed camping and motorized retrieval of legally harvested game, and prohibitions on target shooting, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department has experienced restrictions resulting from special land use designations including loss of access to wildlife water developments and other critical habitat infrastructure, increased regulatory complexity and staff costs, delay or cancellation of needed management actions, as well as administrative or legal challenges leading to a decreased efficiency in conserving, protecting, and managing Arizona's diverse wildlife resources, as well as the inability of sportsmen and women the opportunity to enjoy traditional pursuits and fulfill their critical role in the North American Model of Conservation, and

WHEREAS, public land managers have a responsibility to the people of Arizona to ensure continued opportunities for multiple-use recreational activities. For example, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) is the Bureau of Land Management's "Organic Act" that establishes the agency's multiple-use mandate to serve present and future generations. FLPMA also governs the USDA Forest Service, and for both agencies, requirements include the provision for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use. Additionally, this Act requires that management protect public land qualities and resource values while providing food and habitat for fish and wildlife and their development and utilization. As such, FLPMA underlines the responsibility and authority of the States for management of fish and resident wildlife, and

WHEREAS, the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 and the Federal Land and Policy Management Act of 1976 both legally prohibit federal land management agencies from affecting the state's jurisdiction and responsibilities. Once federal lands are converted to a special designation such as Wilderness, National Monument, or National Park, the multiple-use provisions under FLPMA laws no longer apply, and

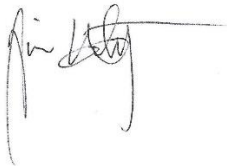
WHEREAS, in spite of legislation emphasizing multiple-use of public lands, neither the USDA Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management have established objectives for acreages of public lands in Arizona to be maintained for multiple-use and free of more restrictive designations, and

WHEREAS, Title IV of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 sets forth clear Congressional intent that Federal departments and agencies facilitate the expansion of hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting opportunities on federal lands and expand management of game species and their habitat in a manner that respects state management authority of those resources, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation does not support the continual conversion of public lands from multiple use to land use designations that result in the net loss of wildlife resources, wildlife related recreational opportunities, and wildlife dependent economic benefit without expressed concurrence of the sportsmen's community and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any proposed special land use designation 1) shall analyze the cumulative impacts of further loss of public lands that provide for multiple-use and wildlife related recreational and economic opportunities, and 2) shall clearly articulate the Arizona Game and Fish Department's statutory authority to manage wildlife resources and include provisions ensuring continued, appropriate public access for hunting and angling.

**Adopted by the Arizona Sportsman for Wildlife Conservation Board on February 27, 2024.**



Jim Unmacht  
Executive Director

**Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation, on behalf of the following organizations:**

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| Anglers United                                     | Arizona Predator Callers                    |
| Arizona Antelope Foundation                        | Christian Hunters of America                |
| Arizona Bowhunters Association                     | Conservation First USA                      |
| Arizona Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation | Conserve and Protect Arizona                |
| Arizona Chapter of Safari Club International       | Diablo Trust                                |
| Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited                 | FlyFishers Arizona                          |
| Arizona Deer Association                           | Mogollon Sporting Association               |
| Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society               | No Excuse Hunting and Outdoors              |
| Arizona Elk Society                                | Outdoor Experience 4 All                    |
| Arizona Flycasters Club                            | Southern Arizona Quail Forever              |
| Arizona Houndsmen's Association                    | Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership |
| Arizona Mule Deer Organization                     | Valley of the Sun Quail Forever             |
| Arizona Outdoor Sports                             |   |