



March 28, 2024

Rachel Dawson  
Program Director, National Programs  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

*Via email:* [Rachel.Dawson@nfwf.org](mailto:Rachel.Dawson@nfwf.org)

**RE: Salt River Project Grant Application #83549**

Dear Ms. Dawson:

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) is the leading 501c-3 non-profit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation, habitat improvement, youth recruitment and retention, as well as providing educational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts on issues important to their passions. AZSFWC's 40 member, affiliate, and associate groups reach across the spectrum of wildlife conservation, hunting, angling, shooting sports, outdoor recreation, and businesses, representing more than 30,000 people.

AZSFWC is pleased to provide this letter in support of Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District's (SRP) National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) America The Beautiful Challenge 2024 grant application (#83549) for the Tonto National Forest (TNF) Watershed and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project (Project).

SRP's application under the National Forest Grant section will support projects on National Forest System (NFS) lands to achieve the restoration of a forest ecosystem through the removal of encroached vegetation. AZSFWC has partnered with SRP and contributed to projects in the TNF and supports the continuation of this important work to reduce wildfire risk, protect water supplies, and enhance wildlife habitat.

This TNF Project will restore approximately 5,405 acres of forested landscape by the removal of woody vegetation thereby improving ecosystem functions and increase resiliency throughout the TNF. The Project is located within the boundaries of two Watershed Restoration Action Plans (WRAP) in the TNF, both with Functioning at Risk Watershed Condition Classifications.

AZSFWC Support for SRP NFWF Grant Application #83549 – 3-28-24

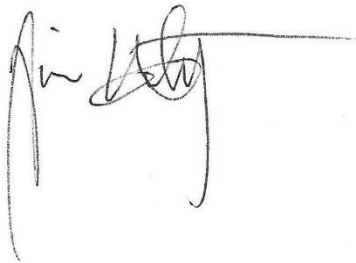
Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation  
PO Box 75731 New River, AZ 85087

The Project areas are approximately 6 miles east and 12 miles northeast of the Town of Payson, Arizona, respectively. The Star Valley Project encompasses 2,768 acres, with 513 acres in the Green Valley Creek WRAP, and the Dude Fire Restoration Project area encompasses 2,637 acres, with 655 acres in the East Verde River Headwaters WRAP.

AZSFWC supports SRP's America The Beautiful Challenge grant application to the NFWF for favorable review and award!

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Yours in Conservation,

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

Jim Unmacht  
Executive Director

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