



August 11, 2022

North Kaibab Ranger District *Via email:* rmwalker@usda.gov, david.vincelette@usda.gov
Kaibab National Forest
P.O. Box 248
Fredonia, AZ 86022

**RE: Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Mangum Fire Emergency
Actions/Hazard Tree Removal Project (Project)**

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft EA for this Project.

AZSFWC is a 501c-3 organization dedicated to wildlife conservation, habitat improvement, youth recruitment and retention, and educating outdoor enthusiasts on issues important to their passions. AZSFWC member organizations reach across the spectrum of wildlife conservation, hunting, angling, shooting sports, outdoor recreation groups and businesses from across Arizona, representing more than 25,000 people.

As we noted in our June 28, 2021 letter (attached), the North Kaibab Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest (NKRD) is of particular importance to our membership for a variety of reasons. The negative impacts of the Mangum Fire caused a great deal of concern with respect to the wildlife, habitat loss and forest infrastructure. AZSFWC has appreciated the collaborative efforts by the NKRD, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to address those impacts, including; seeding of severely burned areas and repairs/upgrades to wildlife water developments.

AZSFWC previously recommended two potential modifications and are pleased to note one has been added to the Proposed Action, covering the removal of hazard trees proximate to water developments and livestock handling facilities. We also noted that a potential timber volume exchange was considered but determined not to be viable.

In summary, AZSFWC continues to support the work and the Proposed Action for this Project, as well as the responsiveness to our concerns and comments. Thank you!

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

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director