October 14, 2020

Tyler Lindsey
Phoenix District Office
Bureau of Land Management
21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027

Re: DOI-BLM-AZ-P000-2020-0002-DNA
Recreational Shooting Sports Project – Proposed Long-Term Closures

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) is a 501c-3 non-profit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation, habitat work, youth recruitment and retention, as well as educating sportsmen and women on issues important to their passions. AZSFWC’s member, affiliate, and associate groups reach across the spectrum of hunting, angling, shooting, outdoor recreation and businesses from across Arizona. Our member groups represent in excess of 10,000 sportsmen and women from Arizona.

AZSFWC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the BLM’s proposed long-term closures around the recreational shooting sites being developed within the Phoenix District. As the BLM has stated before, “Recreational shooting sports are one of our nation’s oldest and most popular pastimes and are long-standing and appropriate use of Bureau of Land Management public lands.”

The popularity of recreational shooting requires several considerations due to the nature of the endeavor, but none more important than the safety of those participating, as well as those in proximity of that activity. In that context, AZSFWC and 17 of our member organizations (list follows) support your proposed long-term closure around the designated sites as noted in your Recreational Shooting Sports Project documents.

AZSFWC appreciates the BLM’s efforts to enhance recreational shooting access and at the same time ensure the public can do so in a safe manner.

Thank you.

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director
AZSFWC Organizations supporting the BLM’s Proposed Long-Term Closures Around Recreational Shooting Sites

Anglers United
AZ Antelope Foundation
AZ Big Game Super Raffle
AZ Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation
AZ Chapter of Safari Club International
AZ Deer Association
AZ Council of Trout Unlimited
AZ Houndsmen’s Association
AZ Outdoor Sports
Christian Hunters of America
Mohave Sportsman Club
Outdoor Experience 4 All
Southern AZ Quail Forever
Southwest Wildlife Foundation
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Valley of the Sun Quail Forever
Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club