



March 14, 2017

Wayne Monger  
BLM Project Manager  
21605 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Phoenix, AZ 85027

via Email

Re: Sonoran Desert National Monument Target Shooting Resource Management Plan Amendment (SDNM RMPA)

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) is a non-profit 501c-3 organization whose Mission is to educate and inform sportsmen, wildlife conservation organizations throughout the state, and the public at large on important issues related to wildlife and sportsmen. AZSFWC consists of 31 member organizations with over 10,000 sportsmen and women in Arizona, with interests spanning the outdoor recreation spectrum from hunting, angling, boating, shooting, hiking, wildlife viewing and youth activities.

As you assess recreational shooting plans for the Sonoran Desert National Monument (SDNM), please accept AZSFWC's comments on the SDNM RMPA.

AZSFWC has had a long-standing interest and concern relative to the preservation of recreational shooting opportunities in Arizona including within the SDNM. This is evident from prior comment to the BLM on this subject as recent as March 19, 2016. At that time we submitted the attached **Resolution of Support for Recreational Shooting on the Sonoran Desert National Monument**. In part because Arizona has more than its share of Federal land and recreational shooting is a traditional use of those Federal public lands.

AZSFWC also recognizes the balance that the BLM must strike between protecting the SDNM's cultural sites and resources, while at the same time providing for public recreation. However, management by restriction for the law abiding sportsman or woman is fraught with problems. Too often this option has been implemented on Federal lands to the detriment of the sport and conscientious sportsmen and women who follow the rules.

The recreational shooting sports also play an important economic and social role in Arizona. AZSFWC would encourage the BLM to find ways to continue to allow recreational shooting across the monument wherever possible, carving out sensitive exceptions when necessary, but not blanketing closures because it might be easier. We strongly encourage the BLM to consider utilizing other options where possible to achieve desired results when it comes to landscape management, or protection of cultural sites

AZSFWC letter supporting Alternative A for SDNM RMPA on Recreational Shooting – 3-14-2017

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation  
PO Box 12590 Glendale, AZ 85318

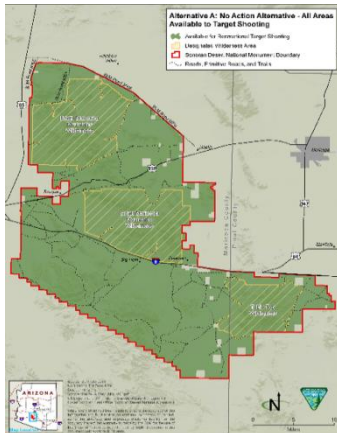
and resources. We stand ready to assist in identifying problems and working on solutions for those sensitive places, if there is a need. However in the interim, we do not support the proposed alternatives that impose restrictions on recreational shooting opportunities on the SDNM.

On behalf of AZSFWC and 17 of our member organizations noted on the following page, we urge you to select **Alternative A** as the option of choice with respect to recreational shooting on the SDNM.

Thank you!



Jim Unmacht  
Executive Director



**BLM Alternative A**

**Alternative A** - the “no action” alternative continues the 1988 Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan without change, which means that target shooting would be allowed anywhere within the SDNM.

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**AZSFWC Member groups supporting  
Alternative A for the Sonoran Desert NM  
Target Shooting Resource Management Plan  
Amendment (SDNM RMPA)**

AZ Antelope Foundation  
AZ Bass Federation Nation  
AZ Big Game Super Raffle  
AZ Catfish Conservation Association  
AZ Chapter Safari Club International  
AZ Deer Association  
AZ Elk Society  
AZ Houndsmen  
AZ Outdoor Sports  
Mohave Sportsman Club  
Outdoor Experience 4 All  
Southwest Wildlife Foundation  
SRT Outdoors  
The BASS Federation  
Valley of the Sun Quail Forever  
Xtreme Predator Callers  
1.2.3.Go...

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