



October 14, 2020

Kerwin Dewberry
Forest Supervisor
Coronado National Forest
300 W. Congress St.
Tucson, AZ 85701

RE: Coronado NF acquisition of Pinery Canyon property through LWCF

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 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.

AZSFWC has long been an advocate of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). That advocacy has found us as proponents of responsible multi-use and protection of public lands, with an emphasis on wildlife conservation, habitat enhancement, and recreational access to those lands. Those issues are not only important to our member organizations, but also the thousands of sportsmen and women that recreate on public land in Arizona.

AZSFWC and 23 of our member organizations (see attached list) strongly support the efforts of the Coronado National Forest to purchase the 630 acres on the western side of the Chiricahua Mountains along Pinery Creek. We understand the current owner of the property is a willing seller and the funding will be provided by the LWCF. The acquisition of this land to the National Forest system will protect it from residential development and potential habitat fragmentation, while at the same time providing additional recreational opportunities for the public.

This area is particularly important for both mule deer and whitetail deer, as well as quail and Gould's turkey. The Gould's turkey reintroduction projects have been successful with partnerships between the Arizona Game and Fish Department, private landowners and conservation organizations like the National Wild Turkey Federation.

AZSFWC appreciates your efforts with this acquisition, 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

CC: Michael Patrick, Senior Project Manager, Trust for Public Land

AZSFWC support for Coronado NF acquisition of Pinery Canyon property via LWCF – 10-14-20

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



**AZSFWC Organizations supporting Coronado NF
Acquisition of the Pinery Canyon Property through the
Land and Water Conservation Fund**

Anglers United
AZ Antelope Foundation
AZ Bass Federation Nation
AZ Big Game Super Raffle
AZ Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation
AZ Chapter of Safari Club International
AZ Deer Association
AZ Elk Society
AZ Houndsmen's Association
AZ Predator Callers
AZ State Council of Trout Unlimited
Christian Hunters of America
Mohave Sportsman Club
Mule Deer Foundation
Outdoor Experience 4 All
South Eastern AZ Sportsman Club
Southwest Wildlife Foundation
SRT Outdoors
The BASS Federation of AZ
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Valley of the Sun Quail Forever
Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club
Ben Avery Clay Busters Governing Board, Inc.

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