



August 28, 2023

Submitted via email: comments-southwestern-coconino@usda.gov

Mike Dechter, Environmental Coordinator
Coconino National Forest
1824 South Thompson St.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

RE: Northern Arizona Wildlife Crossings #64375

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Northern Arizona Wildlife Crossings (NAZ Crossings) project.

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 consists of 39 member, affiliate, and associate groups that reach across the spectrum of hunting, angling, shooting, outdoor recreation, and businesses from across Arizona. Our member groups represent well over 28,500 people from Arizona.

AZSFWC applauds the coordination between the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Coconino National Forest, the Kaibab National Forest and the Arizona Game and Fish Department on this project. Constructing these crossings on Interstates 17 and 40 will allow for the safe movement and passage of wildlife. When completed, they would eliminate barriers to historic migration routes for deer, elk, and pronghorn. On the public safety side, it will also provide safer passage for motorists along these migration corridors.

AZSFWC and 23 of our member organizations listed below strongly support this project!

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: Luke Thompson, AZGFD Habitat, Evaluation and Lands Branch Chief



**AZSFWC Member Organizations supporting the
Northern Arizona Wildlife Crossings Project**

Anglers United
AZ Antelope Foundation
AZ Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
AZ Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation
AZ Chapter of Safari Club International
AZ Council of Trout Unlimited
AZ Deer Association
AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
AZ Elk Society
AZ Flycasters Club
AZ Houndsmen
AZ Outdoor Sports
AZ Predator Callers
Christian Hunters of America
Conservation First USA
Diablo Trust
Fly Fishers Arizona
Friends of Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge
Southern AZ Quail Forever
Outdoor Experience 4 All
Mule Deer Foundation
Trust for Public Land
Valley of the Sun Quail Forever