



March 31, 2021

Scott Cooke
Safford Field Manager
BLM - Safford Field Office
711 South 14th Avenue
Safford, AZ 85546

**RE: Aravaipa Canyon Recreation Access and Wildlife Corridor Land Acquisition
DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2021-0011-EA**

Dear Mr. Cooke:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important acquisition. As noted in your March 4, 2021 New Release, Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) had expressed prior support for this proposal and as such attach our October 29, 2018 letter for reference.

AZSFWC has long advocated and supported the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for purposes such as this one. In addition to enhancing landscape linkages and improving wildlife corridors, it opens access to 30,000 acres of BLM land essentially shut off from the public, as well as 9000 acres of other public land that is inaccessible to outdoor recreationists.

We understand that BLM is working in partnership with The Trust for Public Land to acquire 2800 acres of private property from the Cross F Ranch. We also understand the Cross F is a willing seller to the BLM. AZSFWC sees no downside to anything in this proposal.

This area of our state has been closed off to the public for far too long. With the ET Ranch acquisition on the southeast side of the Santa Theresa's in 2017, coupled with the Cross F acquisition underway now, the BLM will have opened access to almost 65,000 acres of federal land to hunting and outdoor recreation when this acquisition is completed.

To complete this acquisition, AZSFWC requests that the BLM select and implement the Proposed Action in the Draft Environmental Assessment " *Aravaipa Canyon Recreation Access and Wildlife Corridor Land Acquisition* [DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2021-0011-EA].

AZSFWC applauds your efforts, thank you!

Yours in Conservation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Unmacht", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

AZSFWC letter supporting the Aravaipa Canyon Recreation Access Acquisition – 3-31-21

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