



March 11, 2022

Randall Walker Via email: comments-southwestern-kaibab-north-kaibab@fs.fed.us
District Ranger
North Kaibab Ranger District
Kaibab National Forest
430 S. Main
Fredonia, AZ 86022

RE: Scoping for Arizona National Scenic Trail Reroute (Mangum Fire)

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Scoping for rerouting a 3-mile section of the Arizona Scenic Trail that was obliterated following the 2020 Mangum Fire.

AZSFWC is a 501c-3 non-profit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation, habitat improvement, youth recruitment and retention, as well as educating 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 more than 16,000 people from Arizona.

While this project is outside the usual scope of AZSFWC engagement with public lands planning, the North Kaibab Ranger District is of particular importance to our membership, many of whom have hiked and appreciated this trail. We strongly support the Forest's partnership with the Arizona Trail Association to rebuild the trail in a new alignment that is not vulnerable to future flood damage.

We agree that this project is appropriate for Categorical Exclusion from more detailed NEPA analysis, an approach that will allow work to begin much more expediently.

AZSFWC looks forward to the forthcoming scoping package for the broader set of Mangum Fire emergency actions, which are potentially important for wildlife and wildlife-associated recreation on the District.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Unmacht", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

AZSFWC letter to Kaibab NF on Scoping for AZ Scenic Trail Reroute – 3-11-22

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation
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