



March 18, 2024

Submitted via: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?project=58434>

Mindi Lehew
% Doug Ruppel, District Ranger
Douglas Ranger District
Coronado National Forest
300 West Congress Street
Tucson, AZ 85701

RE: Peloncillo FireScape Draft Environmental Assessment

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) is a 501c-3 organization dedicated to wildlife conservation, habitat improvement, youth recruitment and retention, as well as educating outdoor enthusiasts on issues important to their passions. AZSFWC's 40 member, associate and affiliate organizations reach across the spectrum of wildlife conservation, hunting, angling, shooting sports, and outdoor recreation groups from Arizona, representing more than 30,000 people.

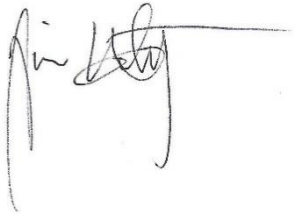
AZSFWC appreciates the opportunity to comment on your proposed Peloncillo FireScape Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) and generally supports the Objectives as outlined. We would make the following requests relative to some of the proposed actions.

- With respect to recreation, we request you coordinate selected proposed actions with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) in order to minimize the impact on hunting seasons, particularly with the limited access on the Arizona side of the Peloncillo's.
- With respect to the impact on wildlife, we would urge you to coordinate the timing of treatment plans with the AZGFD, as well as the New Mexico Game and Fish Department. The Gould's turkey comes to mind, but there could be an adverse impact on other species depending on the timing of the treatments.
- We understand the need to utilize herbicide to achieve some of your objectives, we would encourage you to use it judiciously and limit its application only as necessary.
- We support mechanized thinning as long as that work has a minimal impact on the landscape and the roadless areas.
- As the plan is implemented, particularly in the grasslands, caution should be exercised to avoid the expansion of invasive plant species post treatment.

AZSFWC support of the Peloncillo FireScape Draft EA – 3-18-24

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

AZSFWC acknowledges the collaboration between the Coronado National Forest and AZGFD when it comes to outdoor recreation, access issues and of course wildlife management in Arizona and we encourage that to continue as this project moves forward.

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

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director