



June 18, 2018

Justin Thompson, District Fire Management Officer
Clifton Ranger District
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest
397240 AZ 75
Duncan, AZ 85534

RE: East Eagle/Mud Springs Fuels Project

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) is a 501c-3 nonprofit organization who's Mission is to educate and inform sportsmen, wildlife conservation organizations throughout the state, and the public at large on important issues related to wildlife and wildlife habitat and to provide, via grants or other sources, funding to conserve Arizona's wildlife populations through habitat enhancement initiatives.

AZSFWC has 33 member organizations spanning the outdoor recreation spectrum from wildlife conservation groups, hunting, angling, shooting, and youth outdoor groups, representing well over 10,000 sportsmen and women across Arizona. Many of our members, their families and friends recreate in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest and specifically in the proposed project area.

We have reviewed your Project Description and support the purpose of this project to use prescribed fire, pretreatments and/or hand thinning in order to maintain and restore fire-adapted ecosystems to their natural fire regimes. These actions would help reduce hazardous fuel accumulations and maintain vegetation communities similar to their historic ecological conditions.

We concur with the stated objectives of the project aimed at fuels reduction in order to reduce wildland fire resource damage, cost and safety threats to the public, as well as to firefighters. These actions should help improve range conditions, wildlife habitat, and watershed areas too. We also agree with the proposed set of actions set forth to achieve these results.

In the course of this planning effort, we would strongly urge you to work closely with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to ensure their responsibilities and statutory authority with wildlife and wildlife management receives the appropriate consideration and deference as the project moves forward.

Thank you for noting our support and comments. We'll look forward to further updates as the project proceeds.

Yours in Conservation,

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

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

AZSFWC comment on the A/S NF East Eagle/Mud Springs Fuels Project – 6-18-2018

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation
PO Box 12590 Glendale, AZ 85318