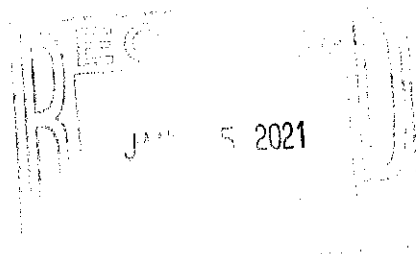




717 W. Main Street
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December 21, 2020

Kerwin Dewberry, Forest Supervisor
ATTN: Arizona Church of Christ Bible Camp Reissuance
300 W. Congress Street
Tucson, Arizona 85701

RE: Letter Supporting the Reissuance of a Special Use Permit to Operate an Organizational Camp on the Safford Ranger District

Dear Mr. Dewberry,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the City of Safford City Council in full support of the reissuance of a special use permit to operate an organizational camp on the Safford Ranger District. The organizational camp has been operating under a Special Use Permit since at least 1966 and is comprised of privately owned structures (many of which qualify for historic status based on their 50+ year age) located on approximately 5.9 acres of National Forest System land including multiple structures, facilities and infrastructure.

The, applicant, Arizona Church of Christ Bible Camp, has been operating the facilities in question prior to the 1987 designation of the Mt. Graham Red Squirrel as endangered and the 1988 creation of the refugium area. The proposed action does not include any changes or increases in the scope and/or intensity of authorized activities under the expired permit, which allows the United States Forest Service's Responsible Official to apply a categorical exclusion to the permitting action.

The facilities under consideration provide a very important educational function for young people within our community and have been an integral part of the community for many years. As such, and given the minimal impact on surrounding environs, we, the City of Safford City Council, strongly support reissuance of the special use permit to continue operating an organizational camp on the Safford Ranger District.

Sincerely,

Jason Kouts,
Mayor, City of Safford, AZ