



January 12, 2021

U.S Forest Service,  
Coronado National Forest Sierra Vista Ranger District  
Attn: Celeste Kinsey, District Ranger  
4070 South Avenida Saracino  
Hereford, AZ 85615

Electronically submitted to:

<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=58624>

**Re: Meadow Valley Public Access Project**

Dear Ms. Kinsey:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) has reviewed the recent Coronado National Forest (Forest) scoping notice dated December 1, 2020, and the supporting NEPA documents for restoring legal motorized access to existing National Forest System Roads (NFSR) on Forest managed lands in the Huachuca Ecosystem Management Area (EMA), Sierra Vista Ranger District.

It is the policy of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission (Commission) to place a high priority on conserving existing access and modes of access for hunting, fishing, trapping, shooting, wildlife watching, off-highway vehicle use, dispersed camping and other responsible forms of outdoor recreation; and to place a high priority on improving access upon such lands in areas of the State where access is currently difficult or nonexistent. Further, the Commission has directed the Department to work with federal agencies to maintain access and promote wildlife viewing opportunities. It is the Commission's policy, in accordance with sound principles of natural resource management to develop, maintain, or improve (where the geophysical characteristics of the land and the costs of such development, maintenance, or improvement are not prohibitive, and are lawful) new roads, trails, or other rights-of-way that will either connect existing roads/trails or provide new roads/trails that resolve access issues identified by the Department.

The Meadow Valley area is noted for its exceptional Mearns quail and Coues' whitetail deer hunting and is popular for wildlife related recreation. The Department supports the Forest's decision to restore motorized access to Meadow Valley and considers the route selected in the environmental analysis to have the least impact on natural resources and surrounding lands. In addition, providing this route will restore recreational access to nearly 32,000 acres of Forest, as well as provide access to the public for the Department's Bog Hole Wildlife Area, an important habitat for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife species.

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**azgfd.gov | 520.628.5376**

**TUCSON OFFICE: 555 N. GREASEWOOD ROAD, TUCSON AZ 85745**

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Meadow Valley Public Access Project. The Department looks forward to working with the Forest on this endeavor. For further coordination, please contact Matthew Walton at [mwalton@azgfd.gov](mailto:mwalton@azgfd.gov) or 520-628-5376.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raul A. Vega". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raul" being more prominent.

Raul Vega  
Tucson Regional Supervisor

AGFD #M20-12220926