

January 13, 2021

Celeste Kinsey, District Ranger Sierra Vista Ranger District Coronado National Forest 300 W. Congress Street Tucson, AZ 85701

RE: Meadow Valley Public Access Project #58624

Dear Ms. Kinsey:

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) is a 501c-3 non-profit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation, habitat work, youth recruitment and retention, as well as educating outdoor enthusiasts on issues important to their passions. AZSFWC consists of 43 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 10,000 people from Arizona.

AZSFWC appreciates the opportunity to comment on your proposed Meadow Valley Public Access Project. We continue to advocate for improved and enhanced access for outdoor recreationists on our public lands in the state of Arizona.

AZSFWC and 28 of our member organizations (list attached) strongly support your proposal to open motorized public access in the Huachuca Ecosystem Management Area of the Coronado National Forest. We concur with the Arizona Game and Fish Department's (AZGFD) comment that the route selected in the environmental analysis will have the least impact on natural resources and surrounding lands. The establishment of this route will restore recreational access to nearly 32,000 acres of the National Forest lands for wildlife related activities. This includes exceptional Mearns quail and Coues whitetail deer hunting, and public access to AZGFD's Bog Hole Wildlife Area.

AZSFWC appreciates your continued cooperation with the AZGFD, in view of their statutory responsibility for managing Arizona's wildlife, coupled with their commensurate expertise with respective habitat requirements.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts in enhancing public access to our National Forest lands!

Yours in Conservation,

Jim Unmacht Executive Director



<u>AZSFWC Member Organizations Supporting the</u> <u>Meadow Valley Public Access Project</u>

Anglers United AZ Antelope Foundation AZ Bass Federation Nation AZ Big Game Super Raffle AZ Chapter Backcountry Hunters and Anglers AZ Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation AZ Chapter Safari Club International AZ Council of Trout Unlimited AZ Deer Association AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society AZ Elk Society AZ Houndsmen's Association AZ Outdoor Adventures **AZ Outdoor Sports AZ Predator Callers** Christian Hunters of America Mohave Sportsman Club Mule Deer Foundation **Outdoor Experience 4 All** South Eastern AZ Sportsman Club Southern AZ Quail Forever Southwest Wildlife Foundation SRT Outdoors The BASS Federation Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Valley of the Sun Quail Forever Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club

AZSFWC letter of support for the Coronado NF Meadow Valley Public Access Project - 1-13-21

1.2.3.Go...