**Arizona Antelope Foundation**

**PO Box 19420, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269 www.azantelope.org**

January 11, 2021

Emily Reynolds NEPA Planner

Coronado National Forest

300 W. Congress Street,

Tucson, AZ 85701.

**ATTN: Meadow Valley Public Access Project/Letter of Support**

Dear Ms. Reynolds:

The Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) a leading Arizona wildlife conservation organization would like to express our strong support for the proposed new roadways to remedy the locked gate on private lands in the Meadow Valley area of the San Rafael Valley and the efforts of the Coronado Forest to construct the proposed 3.74 miles of alternate access roads. This action will provide for the desired perpetual legal public and administrative access to the Meadow Valley zone of the San Rafael Valley. It will provide access to legally permitted pronghorn hunters to the pronghorn that seasonally occupy the Meadow Valley zone of the San Rafael Valley.

The AAF has been directly involved in this zone of the San Rafael Valley modifying several miles of livestock and roadway pasture fence in 2012 to make them pronghorn friendly. This to permit pronghorn with unincumbered access to the available Meadow Valley pronghorn habitat to the north. We in partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department released 17 transplanted New Mexico pronghorn in January of 2014 on US Forest lands directly in Meadow Valley to improve resident pronghorn genetics and lagging population numbers.

In brief we are very pleased to see the Coronado Forest addressing the need for permanent access to our public lands in this zone of the San Rafael Valley.

Yours in conservation,



Ken Meadors, President