



August 30, 2020

George Garcia, District Ranger
Safford Ranger District
Coronado National Forest
711 14th Avenue, Suite D
Safford, AZ 85546

RE: Pinaleño FireScape Project

Dear Mr. Garcia:

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 sportsmen and women on issues important to their passions. AZSFWC consists of 41 member, affiliate, and associate groups that reach across the spectrum of hunting, angling, shooting, outdoor recreation and businesses from all across Arizona. Our member groups represent in excess of 10,000 sportsmen and women from Arizona.

AZSFWC appreciates the opportunity to comment on your proposed Pinaleño FireScape Project. We were an active funding partner with the AZ Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation in the Pinaleño Ecosystem Restoration Project (PERP) dating back to 2016.

AZSFWC saw the benefit then, and clearly sees the benefits your proposal sets forth now. The **Background** summary in your July 30, 2020 letter explains not only the need, but also the importance of such a landscape scale management effort. Further, we concur with the **Purpose and Need** and the **Proposed Action** you have outlined.

AZSFWC would encourage your continued cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) as the project commences, in part due to their statutory responsibility for managing wildlife, but also because of their expertise when it comes to habitat matters. This includes terrestrial as well as aquatic and riparian habitats.

Finally, AZSFWC has worked closely with AZGFD on recreational access issues across Arizona. Sportsmen and women will appreciate your cooperation with AZGFD on ensuring recreational access is not only preserved, but possibly enhanced as the opportunity presents itself over the course of the project.

Thank you!

Yours in Conservation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Unmacht", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

AZSFWC letter of support for the Coronado NF Pinaleño FireScape Project – 8-30-20

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation
PO Box 75731 New River, AZ 85087