



September 23, 2022

Michiko Martin, Reviewing Officer
USDA Forest Service
333 Broadway Blvd. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Submitted electronically via CARA:

<https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=51592>

ATTN: Tonto Plan Revision Interested Persons Request

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) respectfully requests opportunity to participate as Interested Persons at the objection resolution meetings for Tonto National Forest (TNF), Revised Land Management Plan (RLMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

AZSFWC is a 501c-3 organization dedicated to wildlife conservation, habitat improvement, youth recruitment and retention, as well as educating outdoor enthusiasts on issues important to their passions. AZSFWC member organizations reach across the spectrum of wildlife conservation, hunting, angling, shooting sports, youth orientated groups, outdoor recreation groups and businesses from across Arizona, representing more than 25,000 people.

For many years AZSFWC has been engaged with the TNF planning process. We have submitted prior substantive formal comments for this process documenting our issues of concerns in letters dated: 8-17-2022, 3-12-2020, 2-12-2018, 1-11-2018, 11-6-2017, 10-1-2017, 5-21-2017, 1-11-2017, and 11-4-2016.

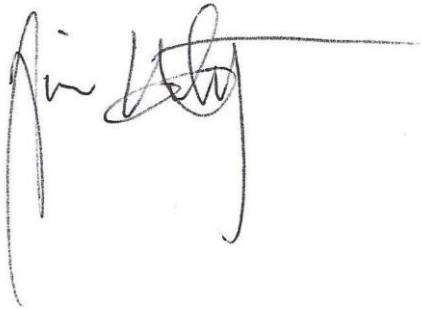
These include objections or issues relating to the level of analysis as required by National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, P.L. 91-190 (NEPA); ecological sustainability; social, cultural, and economic sustainability; and Forest wide management.

Additionally, we have concerns of recent landscape scale losses that impact wildlife and migration corridors or crossings and recreational use across the Forest. This includes recommendations for changes or additions to the RLMP and FEIS such as a stronger focus on desired conditions, guidelines, management approaches for wildlife, fish, and plants. We requested additions to those components of the RLMP.

Further, there are issues specific to new conditions and new information as compared to what was analyzed for the FEIS and RLMP, as we described in our objection letter submitted August 17, 2022.

We recognize there has been a great deal of work and commitment for over a decade by Forest employees as well as public input into the TNF planning process. However, there are many factors that have led to significant changes that must be addressed.

Thank you for your consideration of AZSFWC's request to participate in the objection resolution meeting process as Interest Persons.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Unmacht", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

executivedirector@azsfwc.org