

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/12/2019 2:15:25 PM

First name: Zachary

Last name: May

Organization: Southern AZ Quail Forever

Title: Chapter President

Comments: I am commenting on behalf of Southern Arizona Quail Forever as the chapter president. We support this needed effort with the following comment:

1. It was conceived by biologists who've studied the area and the conditions of the area. In addition to their mission to sustain healthy forests and grasslands, a big part is to sustain wildlife populations. Managing habitat is probably the most important tool to achieve desired habitat conditions. I don't think they are targeting any particular species, but the total flora and fauna assemblage. Overall it will improve wildlife habitat.
2. Controlling wildfire. We remember the Sawmill Fire that raged through the area just two years ago. It was unstoppable for days and burned much of the area under this firescape plan. It was June, and many grassland birds were likely still nesting or re-nesting, so they would have taken a direct hit. Remains of rabbits and hares were left on the burned area. Controlled burning would be on smaller areas and in a pattern that would always leave nearby habitat.
3. The labor to reduce fuels and make firebreaks would be carried out by Forest Service personnel or contractors with Forest Service funds. Quail (along with the other native fauna) would receive benefits derived from the actions of others. This is always a good thing.