



THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5000 W. CAREFREE HIGHWAY
PHOENIX, AZ 85086-5000
(602) 942-3000 • WWW.AZGFD.GOV

GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

COMMISSIONERS

CHAIRMAN, KURT R. DAVIS, PHOENIX
EDWARD "PAT" MADDEN, FLAGSTAFF
JAMES R. AMMONS, YUMA
JAMES S. ZIELER, ST. JOHNS
ROBERT E. MANSELL, WINSLOW

DIRECTOR

LARRY D. VOYLES

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TY E. GRAY



January 15, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument

Dear Mr. President:

As present and former Arizona Game and Fish Commissioners, we have extensive knowledge on the importance of habitat conservation across the public and private lands in Arizona. As Commissioners, we are charged with making sure not only game species thrive within our borders, but also non-game species of wildlife such as the California condor and the Black-footed ferret. We are responsible for all of Arizona's diverse wildlife and held accountable by both consumptive users as well as non-consumptive users.

We are also well aware of the management issues surrounding Arizona's wildlife, and how complex that can be, particularly in dealing with land ownership matters, and the various Federal designations placed on much of that land. Arizona has more National Monuments (18), than any other State in the Union. In fact, only 23% of the remaining federally owned land in our State does not have some sort of special designation. We do not believe we need any more!

The people of Arizona are our stakeholders, and to that end, we support the multi-use concept on our public land. That approach allows us to provide the most recreational opportunities with respect to wildlife for whatever pursuit a citizen desires, from hunting, to fishing, wildlife watching, boating, hiking, camping, photography, or OHV use. This multi-use approach allows us to work closely with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in concert to further the objectives of the multi-use concept.

That partnership is not broken, and we do not believe another layer of bureaucracy is needed to conserve or "protect" 1.7 million more acres on the Arizona Strip or Kaibab National Forest.

There have been several reasons put forth as to why a monument designation is needed, but we say to you, Mr. President, that reasoning is offering you a solution to a non-existing problem! Some of those issues include the following:

- **Protection from uranium mining** The area is already protected under a moratorium on uranium mining until the year 2032. If that ore is ever needed, we might have an environmentally safe technology in the future that would allow for clean extraction.
- **Protection of old growth trees** Arizona's forest products industry is but a shell of its former self and selected harvest and forest management shouldn't be eliminated as a viable management tool. Some of the catastrophic fires over the last decade demonstrate the importance of regulated forest management.
- **Public land grazing** The proponents of eliminating what they call "inappropriate livestock grazing" would eliminate ranchers who exhibit good stewardship practices for both the land and wildlife. No one wants poor land stewards and they should be dealt with accordingly, but the good ones not only make a living ranching, they do so with wildlife in mind. The Arizona Game and Fish Department works hand in hand with ranchers and private land owners all over the state to that end.
- **Road closures** Extensive travel management plans have been undertaken by the Forest Service and BLM which has resulted in the closure of many roads. We do not believe the public needs to be further shut out from accessing our public lands.
- **Wildlife migration corridors** Some have said our premiere mule deer herd may be in jeopardy as they move between Arizona and Utah, but so far they are not. If there ever is an issue, we should seek to remedy and mitigate it - not adopt another set of rules on this area now for a non-existent problem.

President Theodore Roosevelt's legacy has already protected much of the Grand Canyon. In fact, the Grand Canyon National Park was first a monument, but now is a National Park and citizens must pay to see it and enjoy it. The National Park Service is behind in maintenance and management, and is millions of dollars in arrears. We don't have that problem on the Kaibab and Arizona Strip so we would respectfully request that you not designate these lands as a monument and subject them to more rules and regulations that are not only unnecessary, but would complicate the management of Arizona's wildlife by our Game and Fish Department.

We can ensure Arizona's wildlife is properly managed and conserved by the continued cooperation and partnership of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, USFS and BLM, without the necessity of another National Monument in Arizona.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt R. Davis
Chairman

Edward "Pat" Madden
Vice Chairman

James R. Ammons
Commissioner

James S. Zieler
Commissioner

Robert E. Mansell
Commissioner

Former Commissioners in Support of Commission Position:

Larry D. Adams
W. Hays Gilstrap
Jack F. Husted
J.W. Harris

Robert R. Woodhouse
William H. McLean
Michael M. Golightly
Susan E. Chilton

Joe Melton
Gordon Whiting

CC: Arizona Congressional Delegation
Governor Doug Ducey
Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell
Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack



THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5000 W. CAREFREE HIGHWAY
PHOENIX, AZ 85086-5000
(602) 942-3000 • WWW.AZGFD.GOV

GOVERNOR
DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

COMMISSIONERS
CHAIRMAN, KURT R. DAVIS, PHOENIX
EDWARD "PAT" MADDEN, FLAGSTAFF
JAMES R. AMMONS, YUMA
JAMES S. ZIELER, ST. JOHNS
ROBERT E. MANSELL, WINSLOW

DIRECTOR
LARRY D. VOYLES

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
TY E. GRAY



January 15, 2016

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva,

On December 4, 2015, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission (Commission) updated a resolution (enclosed) opposing further monument designation and voted unanimously to inform you and the Arizona congressional delegation why the Commission opposes H.R. 3882: The Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act.

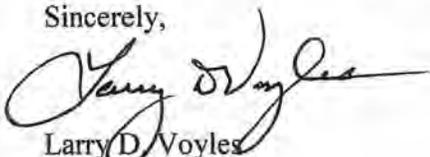
Cities, towns, counties, members of congress, sportsmen's organizations and businesses have coalesced and share a common concern that additional federal land-use designations in Arizona will have a detrimental impact on local economies and recreational access. Arbitrary road closures, coupled with restrictions on outdoor multi-recreational opportunities, have resulted in a significant intrusion on the Arizona Game and Fish Department's wildlife management authorities.

In addition:

- With 18 monuments, Arizona already has the most monuments in the nation.
- 77 percent of Arizona's lands are restricted from public access and recreation.
- More than 42 percent of Arizona's land is already under federal management.
- The proposed monument would connect 1.7 million acres of federal land with the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Vermillion Cliffs National Monument, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and Grand Canyon National Park to carve out an area of 6,139,878 acres, nearly the size of the state of Maryland.
- The Grand Canyon National Park is dealing with a \$329 million backlog in deferred maintenance. Adding 1.7 million acres to an already overextended National Park Service risks the health and safety of land, wildlife and visitors.

The Commission continues to oppose any federal land-use designations that impact the Department's and Commission's ability to fulfill its public-trust responsibility to manage the State's wildlife and associated natural resources. H.R.3882 is harmful to our mission and, frankly, unnecessary as these lands already are being effectively managed.

Sincerely,


Larry D. Voyles
Director

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH COMMISSION
CONCERNING THE LOSS OF MULTIPLE-USE PUBLIC LANDS
DUE TO SPECIAL LAND-USE DESIGNATIONS**

WHEREAS, Arizona's great strength lies in the value of its public lands, and the ability for the public to access and utilize those lands for a variety of recreational uses, and;

WHEREAS, although federal lands make up 42 percent of Arizona, more than 43 percent of those lands have special land use designations which prescribe significant restrictions to recreation and management. Only 23 percent of Arizona's lands remain open for public use and free from special land use designations, and more than 77 percent of Arizona's lands are restricted from public access and recreation through ownership (private, state, and tribal) or through federal special land use designations, and;

WHEREAS, the conservation of wildlife resources is the trust responsibility of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission (Commission) and this extends to all lands within Arizona, to ensure abundant wildlife resources for current and future generations, and;

WHEREAS, with 4.5 million acres, Arizona has the third highest total designated wilderness acreage in the U.S. This, coupled with an additional 5.8 million acres of special land use designations including National Monuments, National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National Conservation Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Wilderness Characteristics Areas, has caused the systematic loss of recreational opportunities and erosion of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's (Department) ability to proactively manage wildlife on more than 10.3 million acres, and;

WHEREAS, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has experienced adverse impacts resulting from special land use designations including loss of motorized access, project delays, increased costs, increased man-hours, and legal challenges. These ultimately lead to decreased efficiency in conserving and managing Arizona's wildlife resources, and;

WHEREAS, public land managers have a responsibility to the people of Arizona to ensure continued opportunities for multiple-use recreational activities. For example, FLPMA (1976) is the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) "organic act" that establishes the agency's multiple-use mandate to serve present and future generations. Once federal lands are converted to special use lands such as Wilderness and National Monuments, the FLPMA mandate no longer applies and those lands permanently lose multiple-use provisions, and;

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is currently operating with a deferred maintenance backlog of \$11.49 billion dollars and is unable to keep up with current needs. This deferred maintenance affects road upkeep, water delivery, and safety of park visitors. The Grand Canyon, alone, has \$329 million in deferred maintenance. Adding new responsibilities to this already overburdened system through additional special use designations puts wildlife habitats and populations at risk, and;

WHEREAS, in spite of organic legislation emphasizing multiple-use of public lands, neither the USFS nor BLM has established any objectives for acreages of public lands to be maintained in full multiple-use, free from restrictive designations in Arizona, and;

WHEREAS, the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 and the Federal Land and Policy Management Act of 1976 both legally prohibit the federal land management agencies from affecting the state's jurisdiction and responsibilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission supports public land use that provides Arizona's public and resources with a net benefit, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission opposes further conversion of public lands from multiple-use to land use designations that result in the net loss of wildlife resources, wildlife-related recreational opportunities and associated economic benefits, without expressed concurrence of the state of Arizona and the Commission, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any proposed special land use designation must analyze the cumulative impacts of further loss of public lands that provide for multiple-use and wildlife-related recreational and economic opportunities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any proposed special land use designation on federal lands must analyze the impact to the Arizona Game and Fish Department's ability to fulfill its trust responsibility to manage the state's wildlife resources.

ADOPTED on the 15th day of January, 2016 by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.



Kurt R. Davis
Chairman
Arizona Game and Fish Commission

