



January 12, 2009

RE: Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF) Supports S. 22, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009

Dear Senator McCain:

As Arizona's oldest conservation organization and as the state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, the Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF) wishes to make you aware that our membership of sportsmen/women and outdoor enthusiasts wholly support the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. These conservation-minded citizens consider this bill a step forward in the vitally important protection and conservation of public lands that greatly contribute to maintaining the diversity of wildlife and wildlife habitat that have historically existed in Arizona and other wild places throughout the Nation. The AWF requests your enthusiastic support of this bill when it comes before you on the Senate floor based on our belief that you, like our members, wish to make this excellent and positive choice in support of wildlife, habitat, and wild lands for the future generations of this Arizona and the Nation.

We are mindful, as you must be, that the bill represents years of effort and enjoys a broad base of support including local elected officials, businesses and religious leaders. There are several provisions within the bill that are of particular concern to our members that relate to Arizona lands:

#### **Arizona National Scenic Trail Designation**

Last year, Arizona National Scenic Trail legislation was introduced by you and Senator Jon Kyl (S. 1304) and Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords (H.R. 2297). National Scenic Trail designation is the highest recognition for a U.S. trail and we welcome this being enacted.

#### **Fossil Creek Wild & Scenic Rivers Designation**

For some time the AWF has joined you in supporting the designation of Fossil Creek in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System. Designation would protect the free-flowing condition and "outstanding remarkable values" of Fossil Creek.

#### **Walnut Canyon Study Act**

The Walnut Canyon Study Act directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study of land in Coconino National Forest adjacent to Walnut Canyon National Monument to evaluate the significance of the resources and public values of the study area and how they relate to the management objectives of the Forest Service and the National Park Service (NPS).

## **National Landscape Conservation System**

The AWF supports permanently protecting the National Landscape Conservation System, a network of highly valuable public lands of acute interest to anglers and hunters.

This omnibus lands package is responsible consensus legislation and failure to pass it would prevent implementation of local efforts in more than 30 states including Arizona. Together we must move forward in protecting and restoring lands in all these states that are the very foundation of the rich traditions of hunting, fishing, camping, wildlife viewing, and other outdoor activities our citizens have enjoyed since the beginning of this Nation, and which fill a critical need for inspiration and satisfaction in their lives on an everyday basis. This bill is a rare opportunity for you, and all of us, to preserve those traditions.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope we can count on you to give this bill your support and that you will also encourage other legislators to lend it their support as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ryna P. Rock". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Ryna Rock, President

Brad Powell, Vice President Conservation

Arizona Wildlife Federation  
Western Energy Coordinator, Trout Unlimited