

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Micro Range Projects

September 14, 2020

Mr. Perry Pendley

Deputy Director for Policy and Programs Exercising Authority of the Director

Bureau of Land Management

1849 C Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Pendley,

The undersigned organizations, which represent millions of recreational shooters, hunters, and wildlife conservationists, write to express our appreciation of the work that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Arizona has undertaken to provide improvements and management of informal, more intensively used areas for recreational shooting on public lands. Identifying five areas in the greater Phoenix area for improvements and preparing an environmental analysis addressing informal recreational shooting concerns has demonstrated that the BLM can serve the increasing demand for managed use of informal shooting areas.

We believe that it is imperative that the Phoenix model for facilitating and managing informal recreational shooting sites be put in place on BLM managed lands throughout the West. More intensive, informal recreational shooting is, like most other forms of recreation, site specific.

Proper sites for the kind of management foreseen in Arizona require proximity to communities, developed legal access, relative freedom from conflicts and natural backdrops. Although there are some 245 million acres of public lands, sites meeting the above criteria are thought to be relatively rare. These sites need to be identified and planned for appropriate development before their value is compromised by other permitted land uses that could be accommodated in a manner that avoids sites that would be particularly suited for more intensive recreational shooting.

We urge you to ask BLM offices to identify shooting sites and develop partnerships with state agencies and others who can assist BLM in serving the significant demand that exists for the Arizona style shooting sites. Passage last year of the Marksmanship Training and Improvement Act that amended the Pittman-Robertson Act provides incentives to the state fish and wildlife agencies to build shooting ranges and could provide federal funds for developing micro ranges on BLM lands. Our organizations are available to assist the BLM in fostering the necessary partnerships to expand BLM's management of recreational shooting and the development of micro ranges beyond Arizona.

Sincerely,

American Woodcock Society

Archery Trade Association

Boone and Crockett Club

Campfire Club of America

Catch-A-Dream Foundation

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Conservation Force

Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports

Dallas Safari Club

Delta Waterfowl Foundation

Houston Safari Club

Izaak Walton League of America

Masters of Foxhounds Association

Mule Deer Foundation

National Rifle Association

National Shooting Sports Foundation

National Wild Turkey Federation

National Wildlife Federation

Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Professional Outfitters and Guides of America

Public Lands Foundation

Ruffed Grouse Society

Quail Forever

Quality Deer Management Association

Safari Club International

Texas Wildlife Association

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Whitetails Unlimited

Wildlife Forever

Wildlife Management Institute

Wildlife Mississippi

C.: Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt