

[REDACTED]

From: Lower Sonoran RMP
Subject: FW: Public Comments on Proposed Land Use Regulations

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2011 11:16:13 AM
To: BLM_AZ_LSFO_SDNM_RMP
Subject: Public Comments on Proposed Land Use Regulations
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Gentlemen,

It has come to my attention that the BLM is planning more closures of BLM land to recreational shooting. I urge you to reconsider.

Such a closure of these lands can logically be based on only two issues: Safety and environmental damage. The issue of safety can be objectively be evaluated by compiling a list of shooting accidents with injuries or fatalities over a several year period. Unless those numbers equal or exceed the accident/fatality numbers from other (approved) activities (such as 4-wheeling), the safety issue cannot be considered by reasonable, logical persons. I am quite certain that recreational shooting has an excellent safety record.

The issue of environmental damage (primarily trash left by irresponsible shooters) is a real problem, but not an insurmountable one. One possible way to improve matters considerably is the posting of *properly and carefully* worded signage. You must *entice* the shooters into a feeling of co-ownership of the land (and, from a very large-scale perspective, that may not be too far from the truth.) People generally do not trash and destroy what belongs to them. (Please note that the signage at the Table Mesa Recreational Area, while an honest attempt, is far too business-like and is not particularly effective.)

Another approach is a "fee for usage" program. A fee of, say, \$25-\$50 per year would also create a feeling of "I'm paying for this, I'm going to take care of it". The funds generated could also be used for clean-up, since, unfortunately, no program can be totally effective.