

[REDACTED]

From: Lower Sonoran RMP
Subject: closure of Public land use

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 19, 2011 9:35:29 PM
To: BLM_AZ_LSFO_SDNM_RMP
Subject: closure of Public land use
Auto forwarded by a Rule
To whom it may concern:

I applaud the Department for its continued review and adjustments to the use and management of public lands. Usually I find no fault in the Departments decisions, understanding them as they are related, even on the occasion that they are not in agreement with my own beliefs. However, I find that on this issue I must voice my concerns as they affect not only myself but the many generations to come.

I was completely dumbstruck hearing a spokesman for the BLM tell U.S. News and World Report that the proposed ban was being enacted in response to "urbanites" who "freak out" when they hear shooting on public lands. Furthermore, he acknowledged the impetus for this restriction was not rooted in safety, but rather it was introduced to reduce "social conflict." Infringing on my rights to satisfy "social conflict" sounds like the beginning of another law suit: First we had Wash. D.C., then Chicago....

There are no issues of endangered animals, overhunted species or lead in the soil or groundwater. No improper use of the land or damage to the eco system. So, at best we have a group of "city folk" who go out to the recreation area, hear a firearm and get scared. In reality, we most likely have a group of politically motivated anti-gunners with no real basis of fact other than their own ideology trying to enforce their will upon generations of American citizens. It is no more than an unlawful back door means of infringing upon the rights of those who use the PUBLIC lands to lawfully enjoy their preferred means of recreation.

We may be trying to sharpen our skills by target shooting; holding personal contests between friends; having a family day of fun and a picnic while teaching our children or loved ones to shoot for the first time. Maybe we're practicing skills we need in a life or death personal self defense incident. Or, it could be the day I'm helping a group of Boy Scouts earn their merit badge. The reasons are endless and imaterial. The fact is that the lands are made for all of the public to enjoy their means of recreation, and it would appear that the Department is either a pawn or duplicitous in the matter.

The recent court rulings on the topic of the 2nd Amendment from State through the Supreme Court and the resurgence of the shooting sports across America are just one of many things to ponder as you consider closing public lands to the largest growing demographic in the US today. I think it worth mentioning that the land IS public land, not a pawn to be tossed about by the urbanites afraid to enter the big outdoors unless you pander to their every whim, or the anti gun politicians who would prefer that all guns be removed from the earth, bare in mind that neither will ever be satiated and your decisions will effect generations to come not just those in power today.

Please reconsider this closure and the impact it will have on the generations of youth to come and their right to be able to find a place to have their Scout leader or their father or grandfather teach them how to safely handle and shoot a firearm.

Thank You for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]