



**ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATION**  
PO Box 51510  
Mesa, AZ 85208

April 3, 2015

The Honorable Doug Ducey  
Governor of Arizona  
Executive Tower  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Veto Bills HB2175, 2176, 2318 and 2658

We urge you to veto HB 2175, 2176, 2318 and 2658. Arizona is a blessed with a vast treasure of public lands that provide clean water, healthy air, outdoor recreation opportunities and vital habitats for a variety of fish and wildlife species. The Arizona Wildlife Federation, the states oldest wildlife conservation organization, consistently advocates for wildlife, wildlife habit and the conservation of our treasured lands and waterways. We continue to work closely with the state and federal land and wildlife management agencies to enhance and preserve these valuable resources. While we do not always agree with the decisions or management practices of these agencies, we recognize the complex challenges they face and continue to work closely with them to ensure that the public lands of Arizona provide economic, biological and social benefits for future generations to enjoy.

We are very concerned about efforts in Arizona and neighboring states to turn Federal public lands over to these states, purportedly to better manage these vast acres. In the past, these efforts have failed, largely due to the outcry from throughout the United States that these lands are owned by the general populace for their many uses, recreation, scenic enjoyment and various multiple sustainable activities. In addition most legal analysis indicates that these attempts are futile and destined to fail.

Recent polls have indicated that citizens view our Federal lands as being owned by the Federal government for the benefit of all, not just for the residents of some states or for businesses to plunder and capitalize on. From a sportsmen perspective here in the West, over 70% indicate they recreate on public lands and should a change in ownership occur, they would anticipate further access restrictions and other conflicts. This has been a reality in many locations, providing a solid background for their position and fears.

With Arizona facing a huge fiscal deficit that grows larger all the time and our own tens of thousands of acres of Trust Lands facing daily challenges, we are greatly concerned about looming threats to access, enjoyment and preservation of public lands should the states acquire additional federal acreage. We ask that you veto any bills asking to transfer federal public lands to our state and focus your energies on working for real solutions to insure that the lands and habitats so important to us, our fellow Arizonans and to Arizona's economy -- the economies of the entire region -- are truly protected.

We will continue our efforts to work with land and wildlife agencies to help ensure that prudent land management decisions are made so we can pass on well managed and properly functioning lands and waterways to future generations.

Respectfully,  
Tom Mackin, President  
Arizona Wildlife Federation

C: Hunter Moore