



## ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

644 N. Country Club Drive, Suite E  
Mesa, Arizona 85201

February 16, 2005

Mr. Harv Fosgren, Regional Forester  
Region 3 USDA Forest Service  
333 Broadway SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Mr. Fosgren,

The recent El Nino pattern of winter storms brought much-needed moisture to Arizona's habitats/ecosystems. This temporary break in the West's prolonged drought cycle should initiate some natural recovery in these systems.

The Arizona Wildlife Federation requests the Region seize this limited opportunity and set aside the NFS Lands in R-3 from domestic livestock use for the 2005. This much needed rest would allow the small plant communities: grasses, forbs and shrubs in the various habitats/ecosystems across the Region to complete on year's life cycle uninterrupted.

Knowledge of the many benefits associated with resting the land to plants, soils, hydrological systems and wildlife are well documented, well known and have indeed have been a key element of the on-going discussion of the drought which has gripped the West for the past 10 years.

This request is based upon that knowledge and the Arizona Wildlife Federation's mission to protect and restore wildlife and wildlife habitats in Arizona.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Forman Miller  
President

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