



Position Statement regarding National Wildlife Federation's lawsuit, filed on Dec. 16, to stop the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service from making changes to Endangered Species Act regulations that would dramatically reduce independent scientific review of actions that affect imperiled species.

I am writing on behalf of the Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF), the oldest conservation organization in Arizona, which currently represents 1500+ members throughout Arizona. The AWF maintains an active role in habitat projects that benefit at risk species in Arizona, and collaborate with other conservation organizations and agencies to support development of dedicated funding efforts for science based restorative/mitigative management programs. We believe the proposed changes to the ESA regulations would seriously weaken the safety net of habitat protections that we have relied upon to protect and recover endangered fish, wildlife and plants for the past 35 years. In Arizona, Endangered Species Act protections for listed species has greatly reduced the quantity of important habitats destroyed and degraded, and has provided the means for restoration and protection of a variety of species such as the Southern Bald Eagle, the Apache and Gila Trout, the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, the Arizona Cliff-rose and others. The proposed regulations roll back critical Endangered Species Act protections at a time when global warming is putting increased pressure on endangered and threatened wildlife and plants.

Ryna Rock, President

Arizona Wildlife Federation