

*Wildlife and Hunting Heritage  
Conservation Council*

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July 16, 2012

Mr. Mike Pool, Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Deputy Director Pool:

I'm writing on behalf of the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council to reaffirm our commitment in working with BLM to ensure that recreational shooting opportunities on the Sonoran Desert National Monument (Monument) remain safe, accessible and consistent with conservation of the Monument's cultural and natural objects. We recognize that BLM developed and considered a range of alternatives to manage the Monument and its resources and believe BLM did well in choosing the alternative that best balances the conservation of the Monument's unique features and resources with the outdoor recreational opportunities it affords the public.

In our May 14 letter to Director Abbey, the Council offered a framework to manage recreational shooting on the Monument or any BLM lands, and its assistance to help identify a pilot project. We are happy to see in the Monument Resource Management Plan's preferred alternative an acceptance of our offer (page 2-180):

*"The BLM will collaborate with the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, other interested stakeholders, and the public to consider management of recreational target shooting in the future."*

We also note BLM's reference to use the Tread Lightly program to encourage responsible behavior on the part of recreational shooters. Tread Lightly made a presentation about their Respected Access program to the Council at our June meeting and confirmed that they are ready to assist BLM in encouraging responsible behavior on its lands.

We recognize that publication of the Monument's final Resource Management Plan will be just the "end of the beginning" and the hard work of implementing the plan has yet to come. The Council stands ready to assist BLM in that work.

Sincerely,



John Tomke, Chair  
Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council

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