



ARIZONA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

1910 W. JEFFERSON • PHOENIX, ARIZONA • 85009
TELEPHONE: (602) 252-6563 • FACSIMILE: (602) 254-0969

JOE DEDMAN, APACHE COUNTY SHERIFF, PRESIDENT

A RESOLUTION FROM THE ARIZONA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

WHERE AS:

The Coconino, Kaibab and Prescott National Forests have made public its policy and practice to prohibit parking trailers in forests during hunting season (dated August 15, 2013) and those unattended for 72 hours are subject to enforcement action;

WHERE AS:

National Forests are public lands for which citizens pay taxes providing for services and management of these public lands;

WHERE AS:

The regulations being imposed on hunters are arbitrary and capricious and specifically target the population of hunters with rules and regulations that are not enforced on any other forest user;

WHERE AS:

The regulations not only are being enforced on the population of hunters, but specifically hunters in only three of Arizona's National Forests;

WHERE AS:

Citizen hunters and anglers are some of the most important stewards of public land resources and this population is made up of men, women and children across our state;

WHERE AS:

Many hunters wait a lifetime to receive tags for certain hunts and schedule their annual vacation around their hunts on public land;

WHERE AS:

Many hunters are not able to take an extended vacation but rather schedule their hunts around days off;

WHERE AS:

It is unrealistic to expect hunters to travel hundreds of miles to set up and tear down a camp multiple times to comply with a 72 hour constraint;

WHERE AS:

The Forest Service cannot reasonably and objectively distinguish between a camp trailer of a hunter from someone else recreating in the forest within the 14 day limit ordinance;



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WHERE AS:

This unbalanced policy may have devastating impact on the economies of our local communities adjacent to the Coconino, Kaibab, and Prescott Forests and limits the recreational enjoyment of our citizens;

WHERE AS:

The National Forests have already implemented Travel Management Plans to which the Arizona Sheriffs have expressed opposition and this ruling is yet another step in impeding public use of public lands;

WHERE AS:

There are existing federal, state, and local rules, regulations, and laws that address land use, resources, and recreation without adding burdensome, confusing new regulations;

WHERE AS:

The 15 Arizona County Sheriffs have statutory responsibilities for public safety and search and rescue on our National Forests and find the Forest Service's law enforcement policy on this matter to be unconstitutional;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Arizona Sheriffs are opposed to the policies of the Coconino, Kaibab, and Prescott National Forests limiting the parking of trailers on National Forests to a 72 hour period during hunting season and will not enforce any federal government regulation imposed on our citizens depriving them of their right to utilize their public lands.


ASA President Joseph Dedman, Jr.



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SHERIFFS IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION::

Bill Pribil – Coconino County
Scott Mascher – Yavapai County
Tom Sheahan – Mohave County
Joseph Dedman, Jr. – Apache County
K.C. Clark – Navajo County
Larry Avila – Greenlee County
Adam Shephard – Gila County
Mark Daniels – Cochise County
P. J. Allred – Graham County
Tony Estrada – Santa Cruz County
Leon Wilmot – Yuma County
Paul Babeu – Pinal County