

5 April 2013

Senator John McCain
United States Senate
241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Raúl Grijalva
United States House of Representatives
1511 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Ron Barber
United States House of Representatives
1029 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Ann Kirkpatrick
United States House of Representatives
330 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



*Leaders in conservation
and education since 1949*

Main Office
300 E. University Blvd., #120
Tucson AZ 85705
TEL 520.629.0510
FAX 520.623.3476

Dr Paul Green
Executive Director
520.209.1801
pgreen@tucsonaudubon.org

RE: Saguaro National Park Boundary Expansion and Study Act of 2013

Dear Senator McCain, Representative Grijalva, Representative Barber, and Representative Kirkpatrick,

We write to you on behalf of the Tucson Audubon Society founded in 1949 and representing approximately 5000 households in southern Arizona, primarily in Pima County, Arizona. Our mission is to promote the protection and stewardship of southern Arizona's biological diversity through the study and enjoyment of birds and the places they live

We strongly support the "Saguaro National Park Boundary Expansion and Study Act of 2013" and thank you sincerely for agreeing to introduce this bill into both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.

Saguaro National Park is an important ecological and national treasure that contains not only the iconic giant saguaro cactus but a broad diversity of wildlife species. It also serves as two critical protected areas for Sonoran Desert wildlife east and west of the large metropolitan area of Tucson.

Many of the region's important wildlife linkages connect with Saguaro National Park, with wildlife traveling between the west park and the Tortolita Mountains to the north, and even further to the Santa Catalina Mountains to the northeast. One of the potential properties that could be added to the Park under this bill includes a wildlife linkage between Saguaro National Park through Pima County's Sweetwater Preserve to the Santa Cruz River, further enhancing and strengthening the conservation value of these protected areas. Another enhances connectivity along the eastern aspect of the Rincon Mountains to Rincon Creek and other areas already protected by Pima County.

By expanding the boundaries of Saguaro National Park, this bill will allow adjacent landowners to sell, donate, or trade their properties into federal ownership, thus allowing for the potential expansion of this national treasure. Currently, all of the landowners are supportive of the bill and are willing to have their properties be included in the park boundaries. This includes Pima County, a national leader in regional conservation planning. The County has purchased two of the adjacent parcels with the hope that they will eventually be added to Saguaro National Park.

Thank you again for supporting this important bill. If you have any questions or need any further information, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Green". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Dr Paul Green
Executive Director | Tucson Audubon Society

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina McVie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C".

Christina McVie
Conservation Chair | Tucson Audubon Society