



BAT SURVEY
SOLUTIONS
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March 3, 2022

ATTN:
Address
City, State ZIP

Dear [Representative],

The US Air Force recently issued a Notice of Intent to do increased military training in our area, which could result in flights as low as 100 feet above ground level, flights that break the sound barrier as low as 5,000 feet, more training missions at night, release of chaff and flares, and other negative consequences for our peaceful area in the Sky Island region of southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona. This would have drastic consequences to the unparalleled biological diversity here.

I have been surveying bats in the region annually since 1992. The May/June field season of 2021 marked my 30th consecutive year in this spectacular yet fragile habitat. In the past three decades I have witnessed the changes wrought by both drought and floods and by human-caused habitat alterations and forest fires. Twenty-one species of bats rely on the Sky Islands of Arizona and New Mexico for all or part of their annual life cycles. This winter, I synthesized my 30-year data set, and was saddened to find that there has been an overall decline in bat-captures per net-night of nearly 50% for the majority of the species, and two species have not been captured in 5-10 years and may have become extirpated.

I am EXTREMELY CONCERNED about the danger increased military training here would cause - including increasing noise and risk of fire. Nobody feels more pride in America than I when I get to watch and listen to the Air Force, Air National Guard, and visiting international airmen performing maneuvers over my hometown of Tucson. I am a regular attendee at the Davis Monthan Air Force Base Air Shows. But the borderlands of southern AZ and NM are NO PLACE for such activities.

I am working with a group of organizations, businesses, and individuals who have formed the coalition Peaceful Chiricahua Skies to oppose this project. I am writing to ask if you will join us by submitting scoping comments by the March 4 deadline. We will keep you informed and hope you will consider endorsing this important environmental and cultural protection effort within your legislative district. Submit comments via the Air Force website:

projectwebsitewww.ArizonaRegionalAirspaceEIS.com

If you are not able to respond by the March 4 deadline, know that there will be a long process following that and your support will be important. We are in this for the long haul. Please respond and let me know if you will oppose this project which presents a threat to our economy, our environment, and our way of life in this part of southeastern Arizona.

Thank you,

Janet Debelak Tyburec
Tucson, Arizona 85745

ACTION ALERT — Contact: Peaceful Chiricahua Skies, peacefulchiricahuaskies@gmail.com, 520-369-3503