

The image shows two F-16 fighter jets flying in formation over a rugged, rocky terrain. The jets are dark grey with white markings on the tail fins, including the letters 'SA' and the number '7200'. They are leaving long, white smoke trails behind them. The sky is a clear blue with some light clouds. The foreground consists of brown, rocky hills.

Too Close for Comfort

Save Our Peaceful Skies

peacefulchiricahuaskies.com



What is “Peaceful Chiricahua Skies” (PCS)

**All-Volunteer Initiative Supported by
Multiple Partners, Endorsers and Citizen Volunteers**

Not a political issue – A Quality of Life and Safety Issue

Purpose of the Initiative

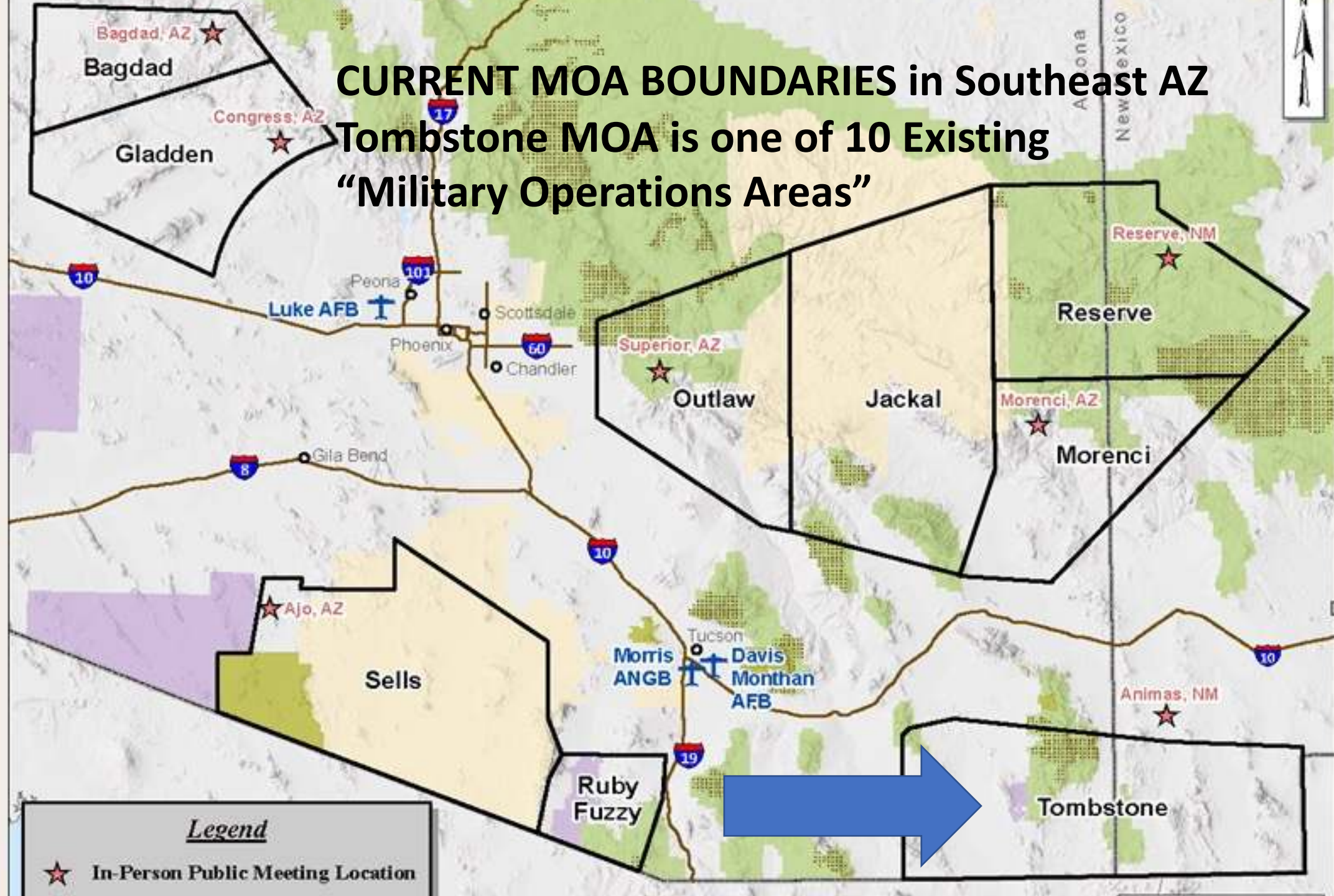
**Alert the public about the effects of a proposed relaxation
of future regulations for USAF training flights over the
Chiricahua-Peloncillo Region**



2 PARALLEL GOALS OF THIS INITIATIVE

- 1. STOP UNNEEDED FUTURE EXPANSION of high-decibel and dangerous military flights over the “TOMBSTONE MOA”**
- 2. Compel the Air Force to FOLLOW ITS CURRENT REGULATIONS when flying over residential, agricultural and sensitive public lands.**

CURRENT MOA BOUNDARIES in Southeast AZ
Tombstone MOA is one of 10 Existing
“Military Operations Areas”



WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR?

2022

- **USAF Notice of Intent for an Environmental Impact Statement** to reduce limitations on USAF training flights over SE Arizona
- **PCS website launched** to alert local communities of proposal
- **Hundreds of local residents turn out** for the only Public Meeting scheduled by USAF in our area—in remote Animas, NM.
- **USAF Comment Period deadline extended** due to number of public comments.
- **PCS submitted 1,000 petition signatures and hundreds of comments at deadline.**

2023

- **Petition signatures up to 2,000 with hundreds of noise complaints to date**
- **PCS continues outreach with** letters to editors, elected officials, and agencies
- 4-day **“Peaceful Skies Benefit”** in Tucson drew hundreds of Tribal members, artists, musicians and activists protesting the proposal.
- **Hundreds of local noise complaints being filed with USAF/ANG.**
- **USAF announces delay in releasing the DEIS to Spring, 2024—they are noticing!**

A photograph of a crowded public information meeting held in a library or community center. Numerous people, many wearing face masks, are gathered around long tables covered with red tablecloths. Some individuals are seated at the tables, while others are standing and talking. The room features bookshelves filled with books in the background and large windows on the right side. The overall atmosphere is busy and engaged.

USAF Held Only ONE Public Information Meeting, Feb. 22, 2022 in ANIMAS

FEBRUARY
19-22
2023

PEACEFUL SKY BENEFIT
PRESENTS:

4 DAYS IN SOLIDARITY PEACEFUL SKIES

2/19
THE SOUTHWEST
IMPROVISERS CONVERGENCE
w/ **MICHAEL BEGAY**
PIDGIN PALACE ARTS

2/21
A NIGHT OF
UNDERGROUND SOUNDS
w/ **UNWOUND**
HOTEL CONGRESS

2/20
AN EVENING OF
DESERT VOICES
w/ **SAGE BOND**
HOTEL CONGRESS

2/22
SONORAN-FUELED
JAM, FOLK, & ROCK
w/ **LOS VELVETS**
GROUNDWORKS

MICHAEL BEGAY / THOLLEM / LAURA TOHE / RAVEN CHACON / ACVILLA /
CHELSEY LEE TREJO / EDIE TSONG / CHRIS JONAS / RED CELL / CARLOS
SANTISTEVAN / IGLOO MARTIAN / DAN HOWARTH / ROB WALLACE / CYRUS
CAMPBELL / BRIAN MCOMBER / NAOM AMOR / LAUREN SARAH HAYES / SAGE
BOND / JUST NAJIMA / FLOR DE NOPAL / RUBEN CU-K BA'AK / CRISOSTO APACHE
/ LYNNETTE HAOZOUS / UNWOUND / QUASI / SONYA BLADE / HOT PURSUIT
OF HAPPINESS / LOS VELVETS / GABRIELLE PETRIANGELLO / COMPERSON
/ MONICA AISSA MARTINEZ / ARCHIPAPTUNHE / JULIUS SCHLOSBERG

**CHAFF
BURNS
FIRES**

PEACEFUL SKY BENEFIT
TUCSON, ARIZONA
peacefulsky.us



the MOA needs to be balanced by

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Journal compilation © 2006 Blackwell Publishing Ltd

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WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Draft EIS published, **Spring, 2024**
- Draft EIS Public Comment Period, **Spring, 2024**
- Final EIS publication, **Fall, 2024**
- Record of Decision Signed, **Fall 2024**

THEY NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU

THIS IS A TOPIC OF HIGH INTEREST!

Send letters to the editor of your
local newspapers opposing
expanded military training
in the Tombstone MOA.

U.S. Air Force informed the public of a plan to lower altitudes for supersonic flight training that includes Tombstone flares in Arizona, Cochise County, and some state legislators and environmental groups have expressed their dislike for the proposals.

The USAF offers four alternatives to the Tombstone Military Operations Area and three others in Arizona and encourages the public to offer comments on the proposals, which will allow more supersonic training missions at lower elevations to 5,000 feet.

The MOA would stretch from just west of Bisbee eastward into New Mexico and expands the area by 10 nautical miles to the north. It encompasses a swath of southern Cochise County into New Mexico and north to the southern edge of the Willcox Playa, taking in

made over time to support changes to aircraft, training requirements, and mission. The existing MOAs have limited the area for low-altitude operations, which are essential skills for fighter jets. The proposed MOA at supersonic speeds from 30,000 feet or more to evade threats.

The proposed MOA would stretch from just west of Bisbee eastward into New Mexico and expands the area by 10 nautical miles to the north. It encompasses a swath of southern Cochise County into New Mexico and north to the southern edge of the Willcox Playa, taking in

arizonaregionalairspaceeis.com/

Federal Registry notice: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/09/24/2022-00749>

Comments may be submitted through the website www.ArizonaRegionalAirspaceEIS.com. Mail comments to: Comments@ArizonaRegionalAirspaceEIS.com, 2366

Statement and Notice of Availability publication fall 2023. Only one public comment period and hearing, fall 2023.

Final EIS and MOA Record of Decision signature, summer fall 2024

suggested

Representatives

David Cook, R, District
Frank Carroll, R, District
John Fillmore, R, District
Pamela Powers Hann
District 9
Jammin Blackwater-Ny
District 7
Walter Blackman, R, D
Brian Fernandez, D, Di
Mark Finchem, R, Dist
Neal Carter, R, District
Senators
Rick Gray, R, District 21
Kelly Townsend, R, Dis

above ground level (AGL) altitudes are used when operating or below 18,000 feet clearance from terrain less of a concern for operation.

AGL references are usually used at lower altitudes almost always below 10,000 feet, when clearance from terrain is more of a concern for aircraft operation. The Tombstone M

WHERE ARE THEY FLYING FROM?

Davis-Monthan Airbase in Tucson:

F-16 — A-10 — C-130 — F-35

Morris Air National Guard Airbase in Tucson:

F-16



F-16 — One Tail Fin / One Engine

Maximum Speed 1,200 mph

Low-altitude speed 500 mph

Altitude Range 100 ft.—50,000 ft





A-10 — Two Tail Fins / 2 Engines

350 mph maximum speed

Altitude Range 100 ft.—5,000 ft.



C-130

400 mph maximum speed

Altitude Range 100 ft. — 26,000 ft.

~~COMING SOON!~~ **ALREADY HERE**

2-5X louder than an F-16

F-35 —

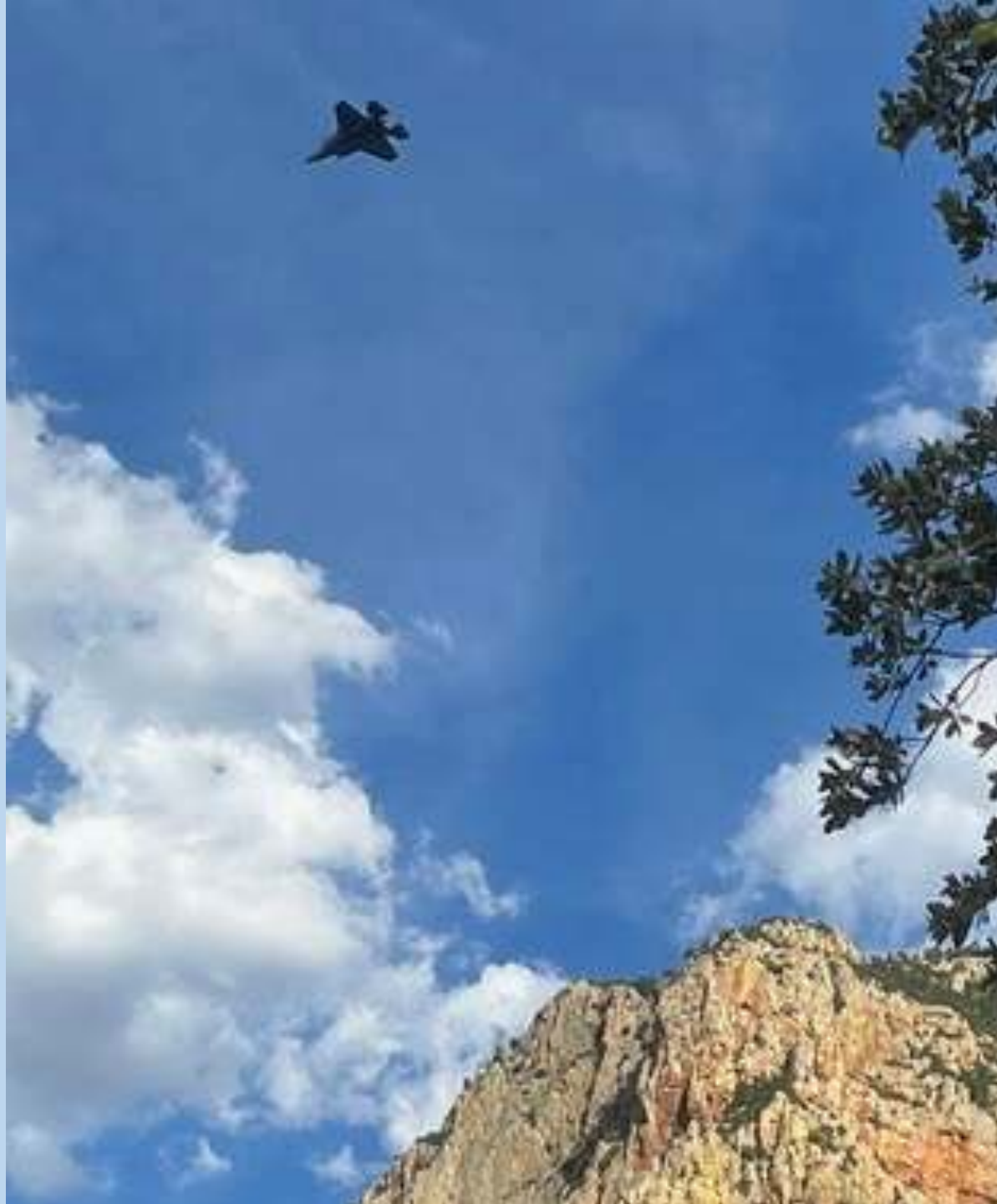
**Two Tail Fins /
One Engine**

1,200 mph maximum speed

Altitude Range 100 ft. —50,000 ft.



F-35 over Cave Creek Canyon



**Outside the
MOA Boundary?**

**Too close to the
ground?**

**Too close to
structures,
people?**

Photo by
Wyatt Mendez
7/20/23

CONCERNS ABOUT AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS



- **HIGH-DECIBEL NOISE LEVELS**
- **SONIC BOOMS**
- **CHAFF RELEASE**
- **FLARE RELEASE**
- **ACCIDENTS**

OSHA LEGAL LIMITS ON NOISE EXPOSURE

Any noise above 90 decibels in the workplace requires employer-provided hearing protection.

F-16 at 500 feet above ground at 500 mph produces 120 decibels of noise.



Will USAF provide all of us with special hearing protection?

FAA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FLIGHTS NEAR NOISE-SENSITIVE AREAS

Visual Flight Rules (VFR) over National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or U.S. Forest Service areas:

“All aircraft must maintain a minimum altitude of 2,000 feet above the surface of lands and waters administered by the NPS, UFWS, or USFS Wilderness areas.”

“All aircraft are requested to fly at altitudes higher than the minimum permitted by regulation.”



WHAT IS A “SONIC BOOM”?

Sound barrier broken @ 761 mph

F-16 at supersonic speed at 5,000 feet above ground
would produce a sonic boom up to 200 decibels





EVER HEARD A SONIC BOOM?

120 Decibels can break glass.

**Stop low-level supersonic
military training flights!**

peacefulchiricahuaskies.org

CHAFF RELEASE

Countermeasure to confuse enemy radar



NEW PROPOSAL WOULD ALLOW
DROP FROM 2,000 FEET above ground

(Current : NOT ALLOWED IN TOMBSTONE MOA)

**CHAFF FIBERS
REACH THE GROUND**

**ALUMINUM-
COATED
FIBERGLASS**



FLARE RELEASE

**New Proposal would allow dropping of
flares from 2,000' above ground
(Currently 5,000')**

**Countermeasure against
heat-seeking missiles**



A large forest fire is shown, with bright orange and yellow flames rising from a dense stand of evergreen trees. Thick black smoke is visible in the background. The fire appears to be spreading through the forest.

**DON'T ADD
FUEL TO THE
FIRE.
NO FLARES.**

**Two Major Forest Fires
linked to flare releases**

UNEXPLODED MILITARY FLARE



Flares do not always ignite, falling to ground as live ordinance that can be triggered by touch.

Live flares that have not completely burned out can also reach the ground, causing wildfire threat.

DO F-16s EVER CRASH?

From... *The Air Force Times*

By [Rachel S. Cohen](#)

Dec 2, 2022 11:28 AM

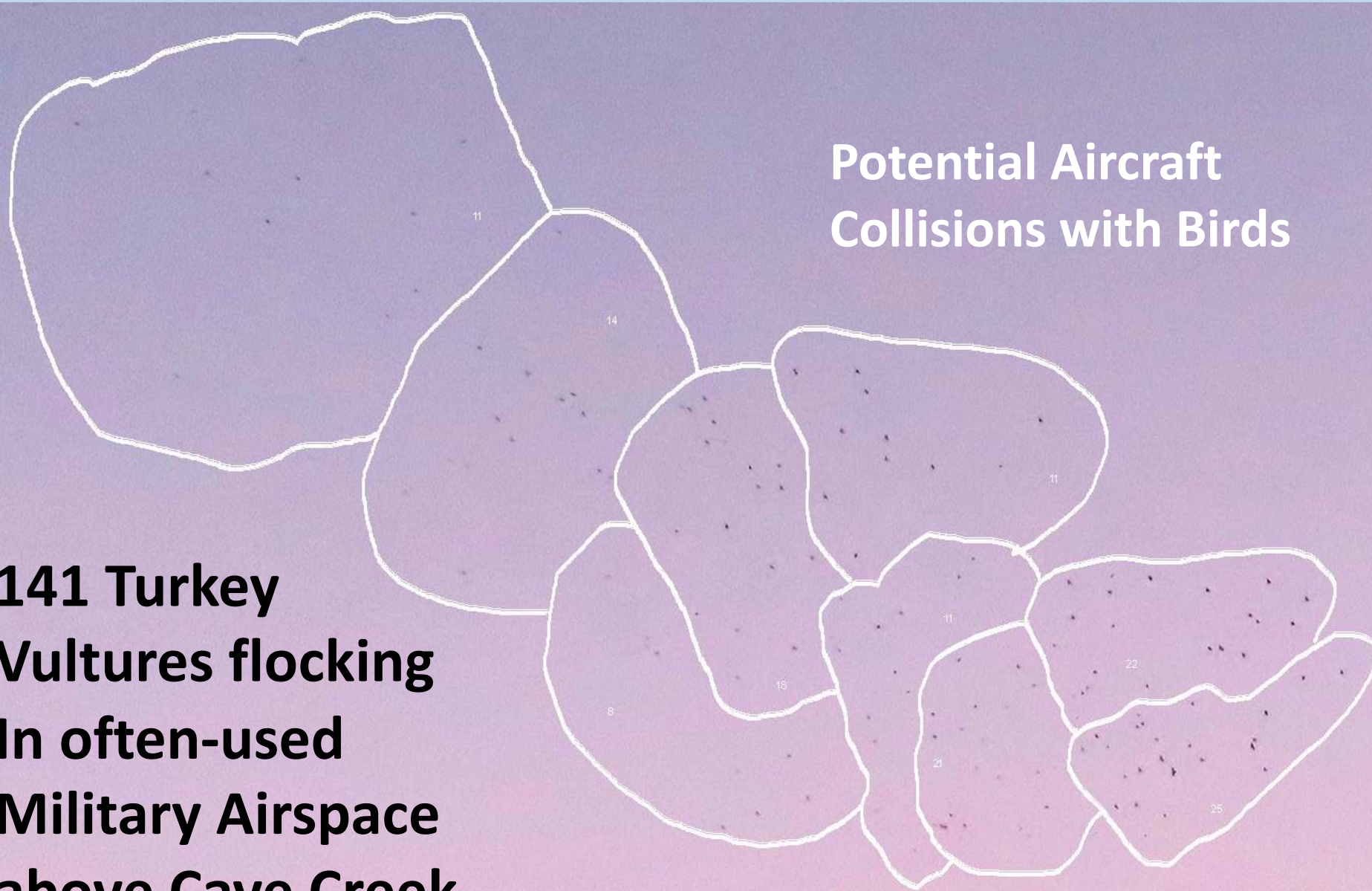
"Six F-16s have been involved in accidents so far this year. About three Fighting Falcons have been totaled each year on average for the past decade.

F-16s have been in the Air Force inventory since the 1980s; about 700 of the airframes remain."

Rachel Cohen joined Air Force Times as senior reporter in March 2021. Her work has appeared in Air Force Magazine, Inside Defense, Inside Health Policy, the Frederick News-Post (Md.), the Washington Post, and others.

Potential Aircraft Collisions with Birds

**141 Turkey
Vultures flocking
In often-used
Military Airspace
above Cave Creek
Canyon**



Cathedral Rock

*Photo by
Helen Snyder*

THREATS TO WILDLIFE

Southern Arizona has **140 ESA-Listed plant and animal species** as Endangered, Threatened and Species of Concern, many living in the Chiricahua-Peloncillo Mountain region

ESA-listed species are easily affected by high-decibel, low-elevation flyovers



USFWS APPROVALS REQUIRED FOR DISRUPTION OF HABITAT

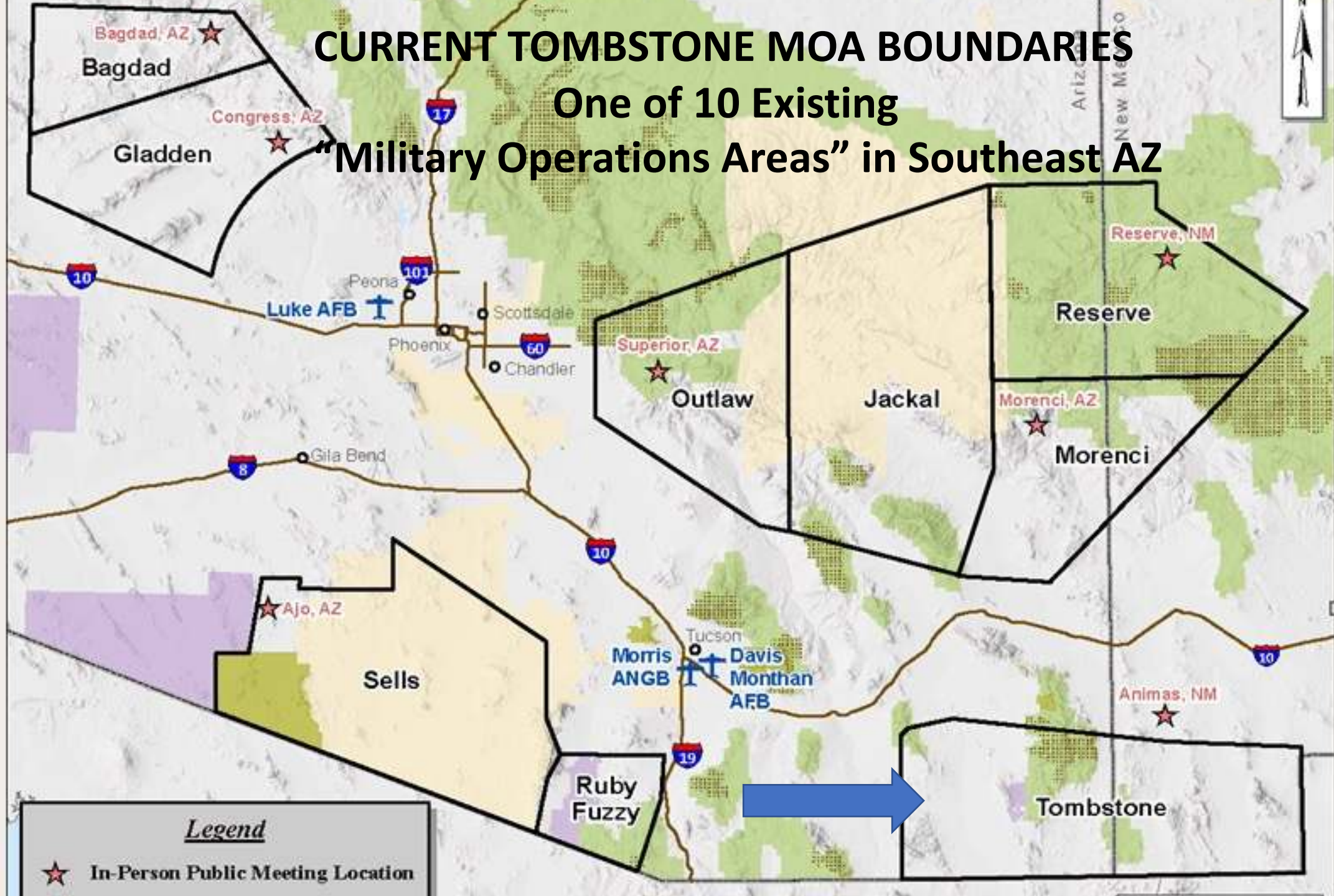


....Activities must not be "likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats."

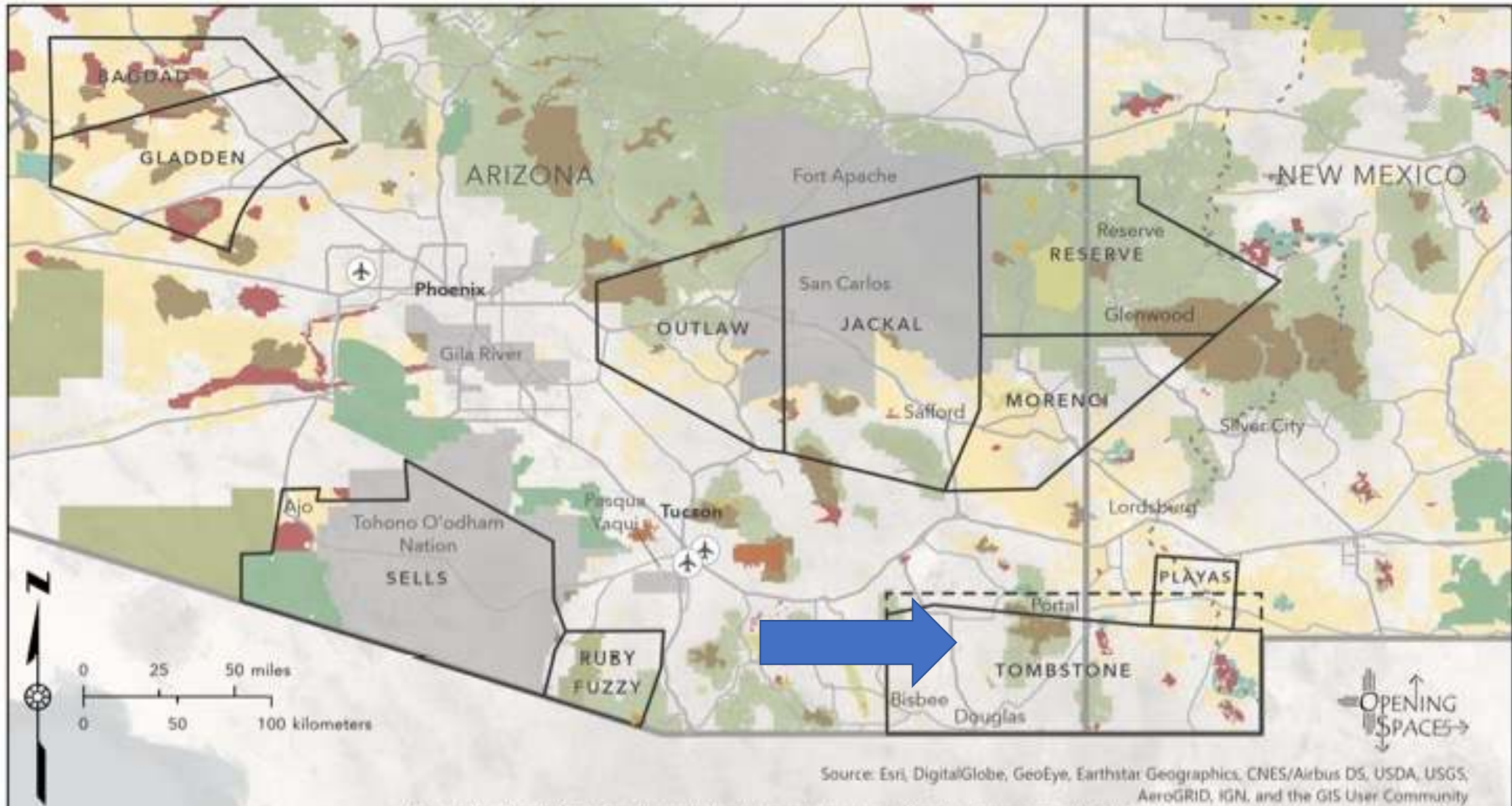
The USAF must consult with all agencies affected by the new proposal.

CURRENT TOMBSTONE MOA BOUNDARIES

One of 10 Existing
"Military Operations Areas" in Southeast AZ



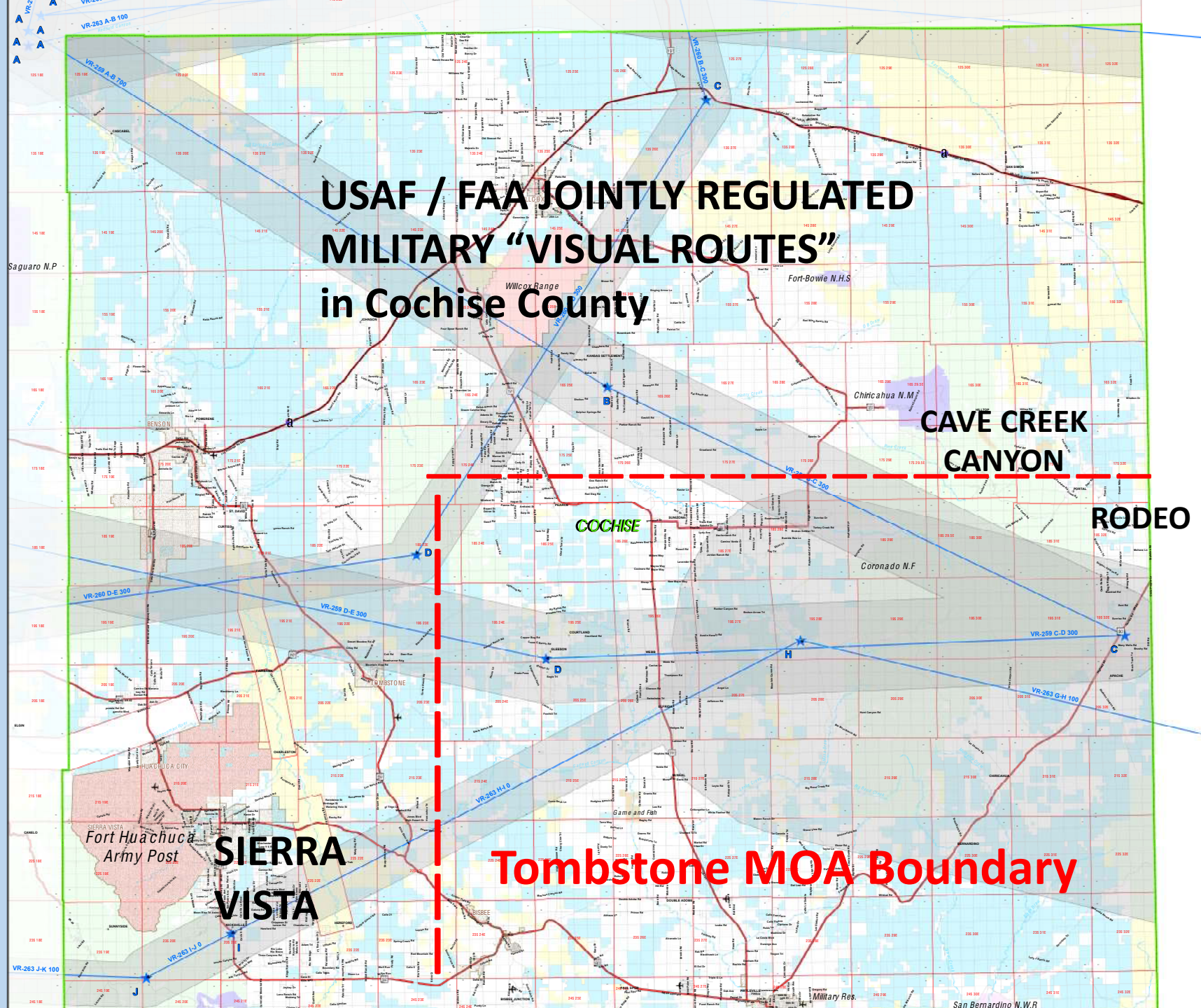
PROPOSED TOMBSTONE MOA BOUNDARY EXPANSION TO INCLUDE PORTAL AND PLAYAS



ANOTHER FACTOR TO CONSIDER.....

MILITARY TRAINING ROUTES: VR'S OR SAFETY SACRIFICE ZONES?

**Did you know there are already areas in the
Chiricahuas where military flights are
allowed to fly 100 feet above ground level?**



**SPECIAL
MILITARY
TRAINING
ROUTES NOT
SUBJECT TO
TOMBSTONE
MOA
REGULATIONS**

**Flights as low as
100-300 feet
Above Ground**

**HOW CLOSELY DOES THE FAA
MONITOR USAF SPEEDS/ALTITUDES
OUTSIDE MOAs?**

Report ALL MILITARY FLIGHTS to USAF

USAF NOISE COMPLAINT FORM:

<https://peacefulchiricahuaskies.com/report>

Sen. Mark Kelly (AZ) Calls for Connecting Military Airspace over SE Arizona

Sierra Vista, AZ— "The military needs more contiguous airspace. We have different chunks of airspace all over Southern Arizona. I'm trying to figure out a way to connect all of these areas so that a pilot can use all of this space. They can all be contiguous. We have the ability to do that now and this is the ideal place to do it."

— Senator Mark Kelly (AZ) during interview with Sierra Vista *Herald Review* on April 4, 2023

Sen. Kelly is Chair of the Airland Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee

See <https://peacefulchiricahuaskies.com/action/write-kelly>

For sample letters and Senator Kelly's address

AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVE TRAINING AIR SPACE

White Sands Missile Range, NM.

3,200 Square. Miles of sprawling airspace

Yuma Proving Ground, AZ

1,300 square miles. The world's biggest military installation and airspace testing ground

Marine Corps Air Station, AZ

3,000 acres of military airspace

Barry M. Goldwater Range, AZ

Millions of acres, multiple aircraft testing areas

Camp Navajo Army Base, AZ

44 square miles. Biggest military installation in AZ



THEY NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU

**Opposition by elected officials was the primary
force that stopped the Gila MOA Proposal....**

Urge your elected officials to
oppose expanded military
training flights in the
Tombstone MOA.

KEEP REPORTING ALL NUISANCE FLIGHTS!

Federal Aviation Regulation 91.119 specifies that aircraft may not be operated closer than 500 feet to any person, vessel, vehicle or structure.

THIS RULE IS CONSTANTLY VIOLATED

Some complaints to USAF have received responses revealing new information such as location of “MILITARY TRAINING ROUTES”



**F-16 within
minimum
500' distance
requirement
from any
building or
person**

(Cave Creek
Canyon near
Portal, AZ)

Photo: R. Wyatt Mendez,
July 28, 2022

THE NEW PROPOSAL

COMPARISON OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED TOMBSTONE MOA FLIGHT REGULATIONS

USAF Preferred Alternative #2

ACTIVITY	EXISTING REGULATIONS	PROPOSED REGULATIONS*
TIME OF OPERATIONS:	6AM - 9PM Daily	6AM - 9PM Daily
LOWEST FLIGHT ALTITUDE:	500 Feet ABOVE GROUND	100 feet Above Ground
LOWEST SUPERSONIC FLIGHT:	30,000 Feet ABOVE GROUND	5,000 feet Above Ground
LOWEST FLARE RELEASE:	5,000 Feet ABOVE GROUND	2,000 feet Above Ground
LOWEST CHAFF RELEASE:	NOT ALLOWED	2,000 Feet Above Ground
FLIGHTS OVER PORTAL, AZ:	NOT ALLOWED	ALLOWED (boundary expanded)

* Alternative #1

No Action Alternative

Alternative #2

Preferred Alternative (see above)

Alternative #3

Identical to #2 except no boundary expansion to include Portal, AZ

Alternative #4

Identical to #2 except the Lowest Supersonic Flight is increased to 10,000 feet above ground from 5,000 feet

Effects of Expanded Military Air Operations in the Chiricahua-Peloncillo Region

What are the benefits for local residents and communities?

- No Tangible Benefits Reported by USAF At Animas Public Meeting

What are the negatives for local residents and communities?

- Loss of environmental quality (peace and quiet, Loss of solitude in the wild)
- Stress on personal health and well-being, loss of privacy
- Reduction in real estate values due to high-decibel noise from low-elevation flights
- Reduction in tourism due to disruption of tranquility by low-elevation flights
- Disruption of livestock and wildlife activities due to extreme noise levels.
- Increased risk of wildfires from flares, crashes
- Biodiversity damage from chaff releases
- Damage to structures caused by sonic booms

SPEAK UP!

**TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS
TO GET INVOLVED!**

**PROTECT COMMUNITIES & WILDERNESS
FROM DANGEROUS AIR FORCE TRAINING**



WHAT YOU CAN DO

REPORT EVERY NUISANCE FLIGHT YOU SEE WITH AN EASY FORM:

<https://peacefulchiricahuaskies.com/report>

ASK ELECTED OFFICIALS / AGENCY DIRECTORS TO OPPOSE THE PLAN

WRITE LETTERS TO EDITORS OF REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS

SPREAD THE WORD ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

VISIT peacefulchiricahuaskies.com

SIGN THE PETITION!

ADD YOUR NAME TO OUR MAILING LIST FOR LATEST UPDATES

GET SAMPLE LETTERS, WHO TO WRITE TO, BACKGROUND DETAILS

TWO WAYS TO REPORT ALL NUISANCE FLIGHTS

USE THE PCS ON-LINE “NOISE COMPLAINT FORM”

<https://peacefulchiricahuaskies.com/report>

EMAIL OR CALL IN COMPLAINT to PCS

[<peacefulchiricahuaskies@gmail.com>](mailto:peacefulchiricahuaskies@gmail.com)

520-369-3503



Nuisance Flight Report Form

This report will be sent to the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and the Arizona Air National Guard, with copies to your own email address and to Peaceful Chiricahua Skies

Name*

first, last name

Address

your street address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

Email*

Complaint Type*

- ☐ Low level flight
- ☐ Excessive noise
- ☐ Flight frequency
- ☐ Other

Date (of incident)

mm/dd/yyyy

Time (of incident)

--:-- --

See peacefulchiricahuaskies.com
for full report form



**Easy-To-Use
NUISANCE
FLIGHT REPORT FORM
On PCS Website:
Peacefulchiricahuaskies.com**

**Reports automatically forwarded
to appropriate airbase**

**GET A FLIGHT TRACKER APPLICATION:
[FlightRadar24](#) or [FlightAware](#)**

*Don't take paradise
for granted.*

Take Action
SIGN THE PETITION

peacefulchiricahuaskies.com



<https://www.zazzle.com/store/pcsstore>

SPREAD THE WORD!

DONATE TO PROTECT OUR PEACEFUL SKIES

Through PCS's fiscal agent
Chiricahua Regional Council
www.chiricahuaregionalcouncil.org

For Detailed Information on How You Can Help:
www.peacefulchiricahuaskies.com



Thank You.... QUESTIONS?



Peaceful Chiricahua Skies

Peacefulchiricahuaskies.com

[<peacefulchiricahuaskies@gmail.com>](mailto:peacefulchiricahuaskies@gmail.com)

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