

Save Our Peaceful Skies!



peacefulchiricahuaskies.com



What is “Peaceful Chiricahua Skies” (PCS)
All-Volunteer Quality of Life and Safety Initiative
Supported by Multiple Partners and Local Citizens
Peacefulchiricahuaskies.com

Purpose of the Initiative
Alert the public about the effects of
ongoing and proposed USAF training flights over the
Chiricahua-Peloncillo Mountain Region

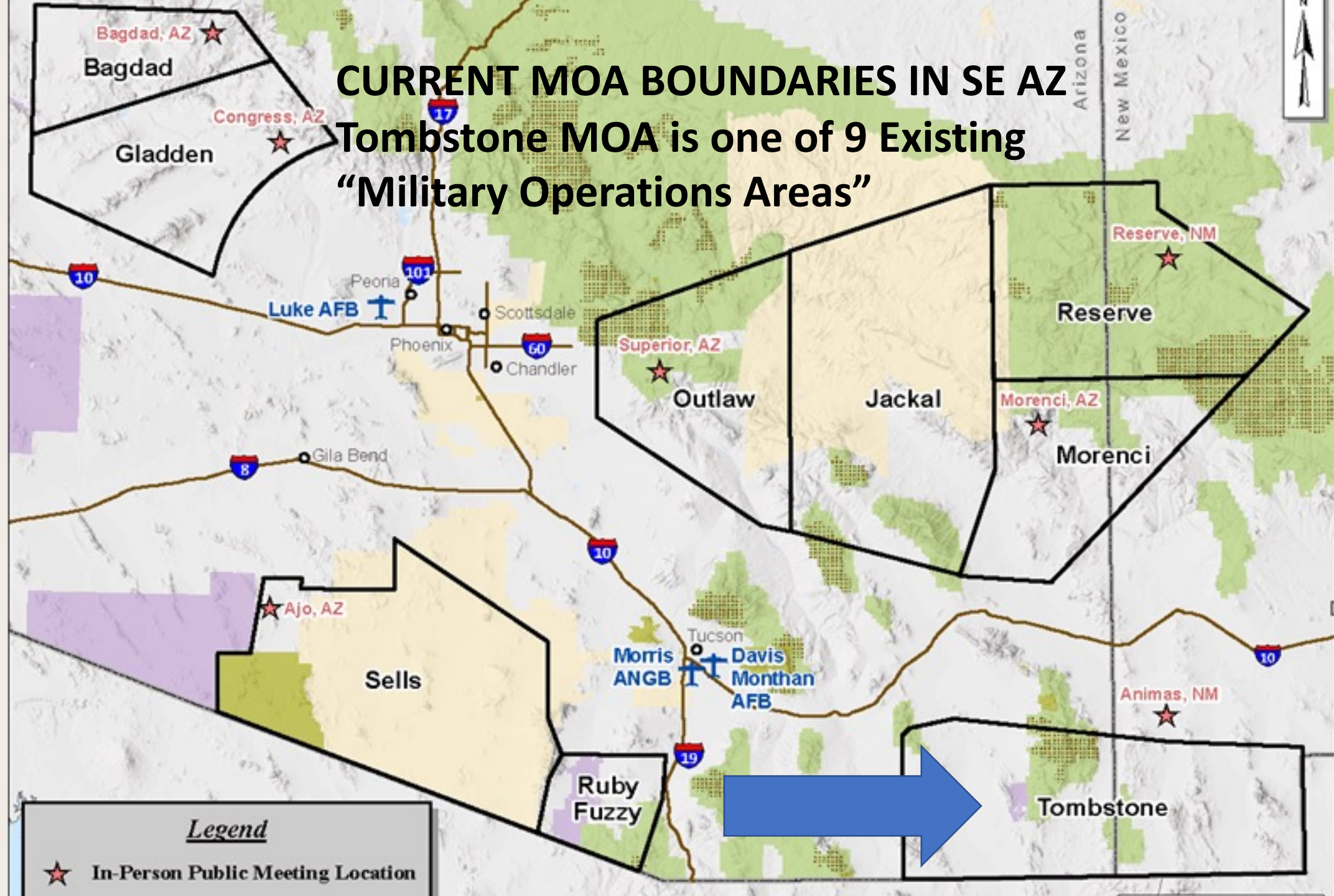


TWO GOALS OF THIS INITIATIVE

- 1. COMPEL USAF to FOLLOW EXISTING FEDERAL AGENCY REGULATIONS for Current Training Flights**
- 2. STOP UNNEEDED FUTURE EXPANSION of high-decibel, low-level military flights over the “TOMBSTONE MOA”**

CURRENT MOA BOUNDARIES IN SE AZ

Tombstone MOA is one of 9 Existing “Military Operations Areas”



MOA HISTORY and CURRENT STATUS

Tombstone MOA created in the 1970s....

When local populations were much smaller

USAF training flights were fewer and followed existing rules and regulations for decades....

CURRENT MOA FLIGHT REGULATIONS

- No Dropping of Chaff—Fully Prohibited
- No Flares dropped from below 5,000 ft. AGL
- No Sonic-Boom-producing flights below 30,000 ft.
- No Training flights below 500 ft. AGL
- No flights closer than 500 ft. from any structure/person
- No flights after 9 p.m.
- No flights allowed over Portal AZ /Animas, NM areas.

SOMETHING HAS CHANGED...

More than 200 Nuisance Flight Reports filed by area residents since USAF Announced its Flight Expansion Plan.

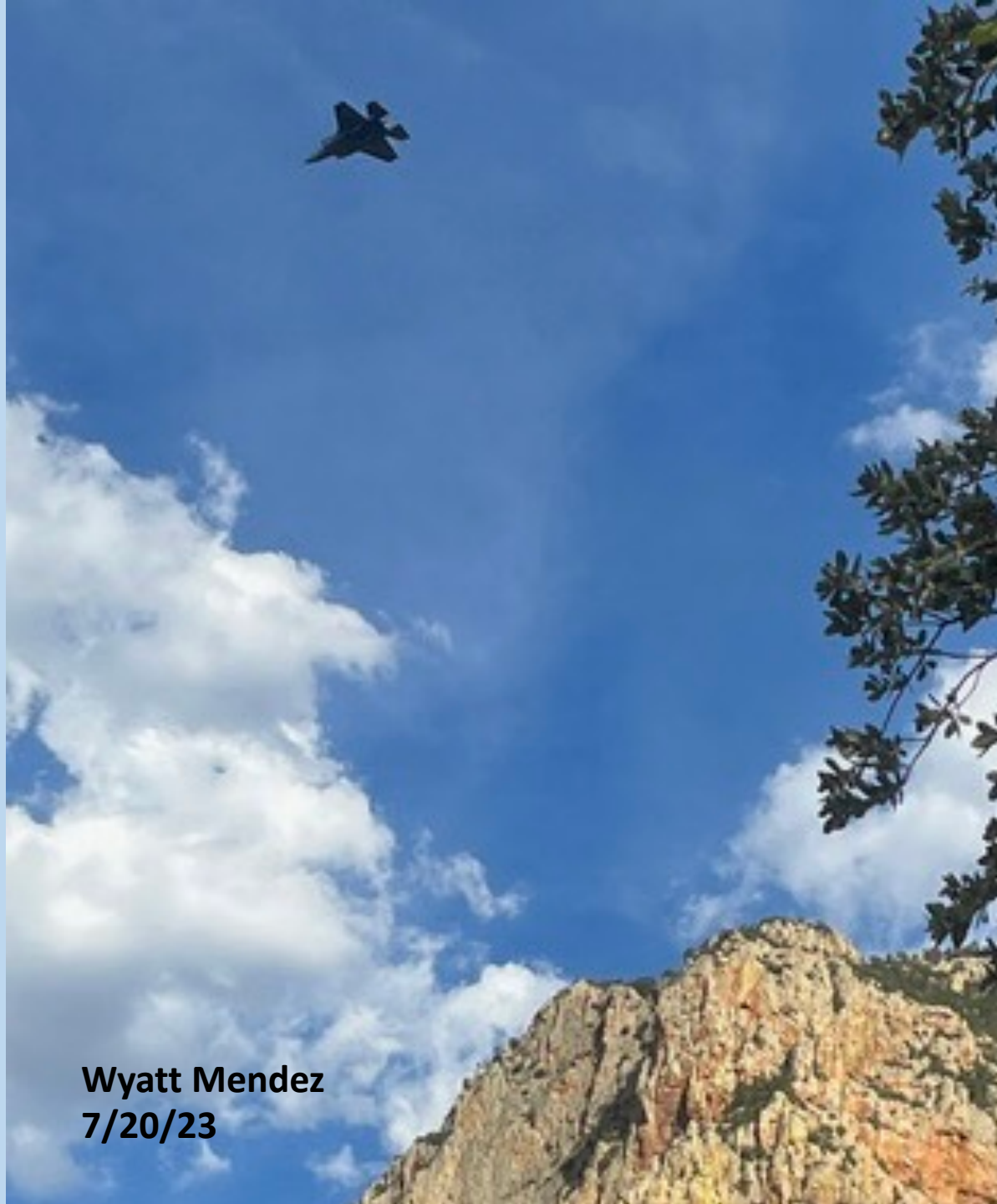
WHAT HAPPENED?

- **MUCH LARGER POPULATION in TOMBSTONE MOA**
- **MORE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY**
- **MORE FLIGHTS, FREQUENT VIOLATIONS OF MOA REGULATIONS IN PAST 2 YEARS**

Examples of Violations

F-35 over Cave Creek Canyon

Wyatt Mendez
7/20/23



**USAF WON'T
PROVIDE LEGAL
DESCRIPTION OF
BOUNDARIES**

**ATTEMPTS TO BLOCK
FOIA SUBMITTED FOR
FLIGHT DATA**



**C-130 over
Portal, AZ
@200 ft.**

January 31, 2024

D. Lane
1/31/24

PAVEHAWK HELICOPTER

**Flying 100 feet
above residence
near Horseshoe
Canyon on
Aug. 14, 2023**



S. Huckabay



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

(Cave Creek
Canyon near
Portal, AZ)

R. Wyatt Mendez,
July 28, 2022

WHERE ARE FLIGHTS ORIGINATING?

Davis-Monthan Airbase in Tucson:

F-16— F-35— C-130 —HELICOPTERS

Morris Air National Guard Airbase in Tucson: **F-16**

Libby Army Airfield in Sierra Vista: **NEW SITE FOR F-35s**



KNOW WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE
when filing reports.....



**F-16: One Tail Fin
One Engine**



**F-35: Two Tail Fins
One Engine**

**4X as loud
as an F-16**



C-130 Transport



A-10 2 tail fins / 2 engines



EC-37B Electronic Warfare Aircraft
Training starts 2024 at Davis-Monthan AFB



HH60 PaveHawk Helicopter

REPORT ALL NUISANCE FLIGHTS

**IT'S A NUISANCE FLIGHT if you consider it to be a
NUISANCE—regardless of regulations**

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

File Nuisance Complaints at:
Peacefulchiricahuaskies.com/report



Easy-To-Fill-Out
NUISANCE FLIGHT REPORT FORM
[Peacefulchiricahuaskies/report](https://peacefulchiricahuaskies.com/report)

Provide if available:

- 1. Type of Aircraft**
- 2. Time and Date of Flight**
- 3. Location of Flight (GPS best)**
- 4. Reason for Complaint (Noise, Danger)**

Reports Automatically Sent to all Airbases

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

July-August, 2024

**USAF Expansion Proposal Draft EIS published
45-Day Public Comment Period**

Fall, 2024 ??

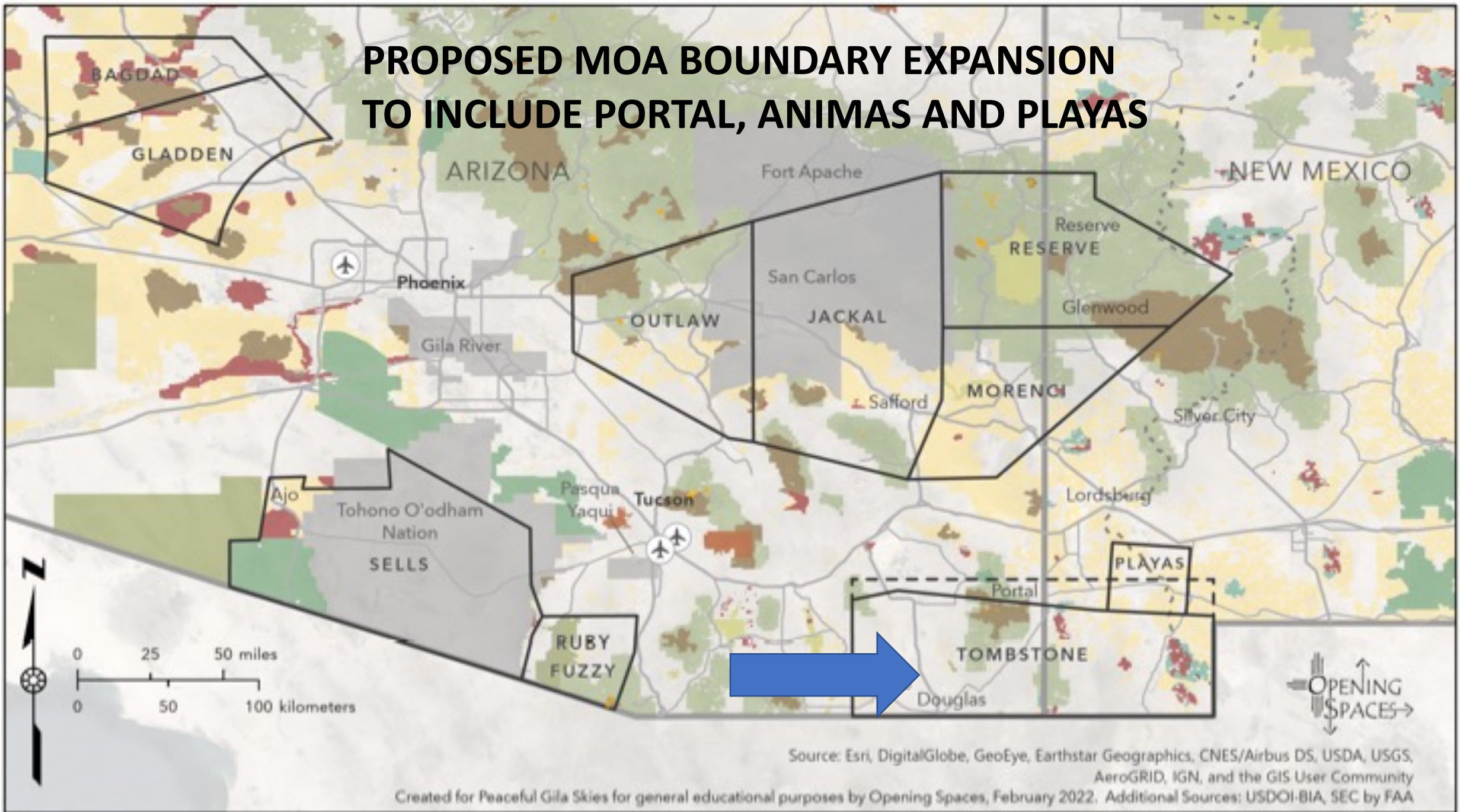
**Final EIS published
Record of Decision Signed**

THE NEW TRAINING FLIGHT EXPANSION PROPOSAL

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

PROPOSED MOA BOUNDARY EXPANSION TO INCLUDE PORTAL, ANIMAS AND PLAYAS



WHY NOT USE ALREADY-AVAILABLE 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

Thousands of acres of aircraft testing areas

Camp Navajo Army Base, AZ

44 square miles. Biggest military installation in AZ

A photograph of a crowded public meeting taking place in a library. Numerous people, many wearing face masks, are gathered around long tables covered with red tablecloths. They are looking at and discussing documents. The room has bookshelves in the background and large windows. The atmosphere appears busy and engaged.

**WILL THERE BE MORE
PUBLIC MEETINGS?**

**All Persons should Submit Public Comments—
even if you commented previously**

PUBLIC COMMENTS



INFLUENCE ELECTED OFFICIALS



INFLUENCE FEDERAL AGENCIES



INFLUENCE FINAL EIS BY USAF

CONCERNS ABOUT QUALITY OF LIFE AND SAFETY



- 1. DANGEROUS NOISE LEVELS**
- 2. SONIC BOOM EFFECTS**
- 3. CHAFF RELEASE BIO EFFECT**
- 4. FLARE-RELATED FIRES**
- 5. ACCIDENTS**
- 6. COMMUNITY IMACTS**

Impacts from Expanded USAF Air Operations

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 quality of life and safety**
- Stress on personal health and well-being, loss of privacy
- Reduction in real estate values (disclosures, tax reductions, lost sales).
- Reduction in tourism due to loss of quiet and wildlife in recreation areas
- Disruption of livestock and pet 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

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.



FAA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FLIGHTS NEAR NOISE-SENSITIVE AREAS

FAA Visual Flight Rules (VFR)

“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.”




WHAT IS A “SONIC BOOM”?

When sound barrier broken @ 761 mph

**F-16 or F-35 attaining supersonic speed at 5,000 feet AGL
Would produce a sonic boom of 200 decibels**





EVER HEARD A SONIC BOOM?

120 Decibels can break glass.

**200 Decibels can
Crack Stucco and Mortar**

peacefulchiricahuaskies.org

CHAFF RELEASE

Countermeasure to confuse enemy radar



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

(Currently: NOT ALLOWED IN TOMBSTONE MOA)

**CHAFF FIBERS
REACH THE GROUND**

**ALUMINUM-
COATED
Non-biodegradable
FIBERGLASS
STRANDS**



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 with bright orange and yellow flames consuming trees. The fire is intense, with thick smoke and bright light emanating from the burning area. The background shows dark silhouettes of trees and more fire in the distance.

**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 can also reach the ground, causing wildfire threat.

DO F-16s/F-35s EVER CRASH?

"Six F-16s have been involved in accidents in 2023. About three Fighting Falcons have been totaled each year on average for the past decade."

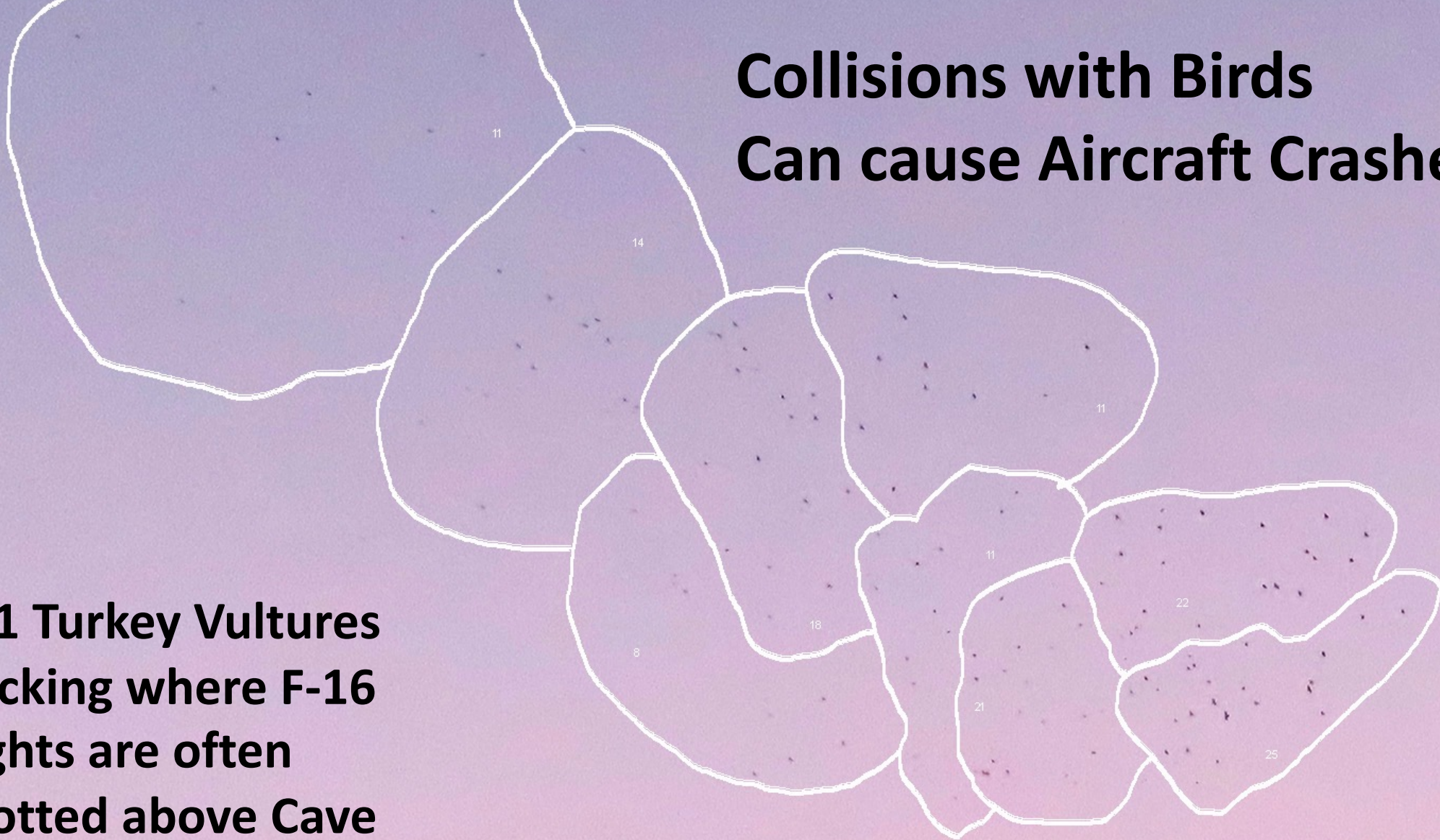
—*The Air Force Times*

"29 F-35s have crashed since the plane was developed 10 years ago."

—*Aviation Safety Network*

Collisions with Birds Can cause Aircraft Crashes

**141 Turkey Vultures
flocking where F-16
flights are often
spotted above Cave
Creek Canyon**



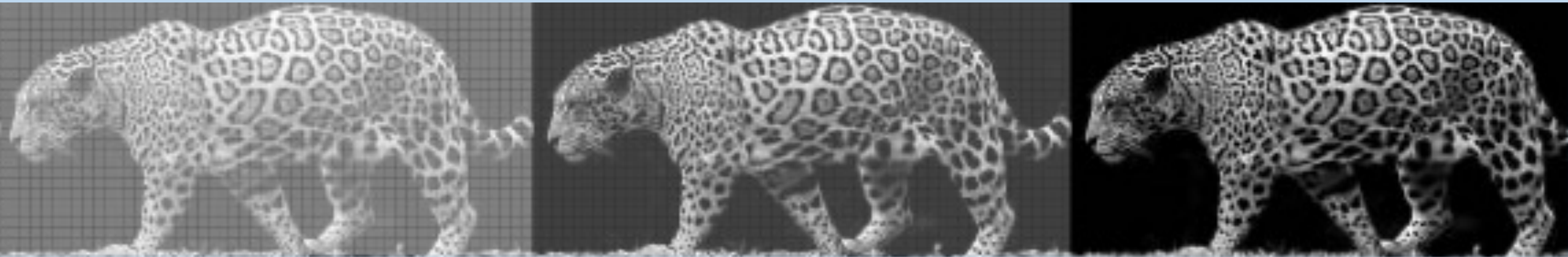
Cathedral Rock,
Portal, AZ

*Photo by
Helen Snyder*

THREATS TO WILDLIFE

**SE Arizona, SW New Mexico have
140 ESA-Listed plant and animal species**

**Low-level, High-Decibel Training flights can
“adversely modify designated critical habitats”
for ESA-Listed species—USFWS**



USFWS APPROVALS REQUIRED FOR DISRUPTION OF HABITAT



**....Proposed 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
whose lands are affected by the new proposal.**

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

ELECTED OFFICIALS NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

OPPOSITION IS GROWING

- **RAUL GRIJALVA (D-AZ) CONFIRMED HIS OPPOSITION**
- **US FOREST SERVICE CORONADO DISTRICT RANGER HAS SUBMITTED COMMENTS OPPOSING EXPANION**
- **HIDALGO COUNTY, NM COUNTY COMMISSION SUBMITTED UNANIMOUS COMMENTS OPPOSING EXPANSION**

WHO TO CONTACT:

- **SEND POSTCARDS TO REPS. VASQUEZ (NM), CISCOMANI (AZ)**
- **COCHISE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
- **SENATORS MARK KELLY and KYRSTEN SINEMA (Ds-AZ)**
- **SENATORS MARTIN HIENRICH and BEN RAY LUJAN (Ds-NM)**

See Contact info at peacefulchiricahuaskies.com

SPEAK UP!

TAKE ACTION!

**SIGN THE PETITION AT
peacefulchiricahuaskies.com**

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. REPORT EVERY NUISANCE FLIGHT
2. SIGN THE PETITION ON PCS WEBSITE
3. ADD YOUR NAME TO OUR MAILING LIST
4. TELL ELECTED OFFICIALS WHAT YOU THINK
5. WRITE LETTERS TO EDITORS
6. SPREAD THE WORD ON SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS
7. SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DEIS

DONATE TO PROTECT OUR PEACEFUL SKIES

Donate to PCS 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

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