

September 19, 2025

Manager, Operations Support Group, AJV-C2
Attn: Jesse Acevedo; Airspace Study: 24-AWP-91-NR
Federal Aviation Administration
10101 Hillwood Parkway
Fort Worth, TX 76177

Submitted by email to: 9-natl-csa-public-notice-airspace@faa.gov

**Re: Comments on CASE NO. 24-AWP-91-NR, Proposal to Amend/Establish/Remove
Special Use Airspace Military Operations Areas in Arizona & New Mexico**

Dear Mr. Acevedo:

Please accept these comments from 403 concerned community members on the Air Force proposal to optimize Special Use Airspace Military Operations Areas in Arizona and New Mexico.

These were compiled by Peaceful Gila Skies, a coalition of business owners, community leaders, recreationalists, concerned citizens, and conservation groups that are united in our opposition to the expansion of military training over the Gila region and across our treasured public lands in the Southwest.

Thank you for considering our communities' input.

Sincerely,

Allyson Siwik, on behalf of Peaceful Gila Skies
Peacefulgilaskies@gmail.com
<https://Peacefulgilaskies.com>

c/o Gila Resources Information Project
305A North Cooper St.
Silver City, NM 88061
575.538.8078 office | 575.590.7619 cell

Federal Aviation Administration,

400 people have signed a petition on Action Network telling you to Tell the FAA to Protect Rural and Tribal Communities and Wilderness Areas from Dangerous Air Force Training.

Here is the petition they signed:

I oppose the Air Force's proposal to expand military combat training over southern Arizona and southwest New Mexico.

This proposed action will severely harm rural and tribal communities, public lands, wildlife and the environment, as well as civil aviation, pilot and public safety, local economies, and noise-sensitive areas.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement produced by the Air Force fails to comprehensively assess the impacts of the proposal and should be rejected by the FAA.

To fulfill its responsibility under the Federal Transportation Act, the FAA must comprehensively assess the noise impacts of the Air Force proposal on public lands, wildlife and historic sites, as well as evaluate prudent and reasonable alternatives to avoid noise-sensitive areas, such as expanding military training within the Barry M. Goldwater Range where it's already happening.

The FAA must not allow the Air Force to shift the burden of risk to rural and tribal communities, civil aviation, and noise-sensitive areas in southern Arizona and southwest New Mexico.

The FAA should recommend that expanded military training takes place in restricted airspace of the Barry M. Goldwater Range.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

You can view each petition signer and the comments they left you below.

Thank you,

Gila Resources Information Project

1. Allyson Siwik (*ZIP code: 88023*)

2. Susan Byersdorfer (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Why do we have to continue to rehash this? Stay out of our wilderness!

3. Theresa Murphy (*ZIP code: 88061*)

No flyovers. Stay in your own neighborhood

4. Diane LaFrance (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Please--no more flight training over our precious Wilderness areas!

5. Zoe Wolfe (*ZIP code: 88061*)

6. An anonymous signer (*ZIP code: 85711*)

7. Ann Lowe (*ZIP code: 88061*)

8. Kevin LaVine (*ZIP code: 88061*)

9. Pat Wolph (*ZIP code: 88061*)

We and the wildlife need our quiet places.

We are bomb boarded in our every day lives with, noise, lights and pollution.

10. Carmon Steven (*ZIP code: 88061-4944*)

11. Diane Smith (*ZIP code: 88041*)

12. Jonathan Futch (*ZIP code: 87574*)

Please keep your keys out of our skies!

13. Judith Menefee (*ZIP code: 88062*)

Wilderness is New Mexico's DIAMOND--& by law wilderness is not to be driven in, be harassed in. These flights are terrible disruptions to quiet & peace. NO FLY OVERS. EVER...

14. Sue Childers (*ZIP code: 88061*)

15. Chelsea Boone (*ZIP code: 88061*)

People in this community depend upon the safe access of the Gila and other areas of the Wilderness, not just because of the important wildlife and natural resources, but because of the tourism that is brought to Grant County area. We are not considered the "Gateway to the Gila" for nothing. I have actually had the misfortune of being up in said Wilderness area when they did a lower flight, and it scared the hell out of me. I say, ABSOLUTELY NO!!!! Stay out of our Gila Wilderness and any other nearby areas being considered. The fire danger alone, should be reason enough to say no to this proposal, there's only so much Gila left after the devastating fires we have had the past 20 years or so.

Thank you.

16. David Martino (*ZIP code: 88061*)

17. Ray Cage (*ZIP code: 85712-1611*)

More military dominance.

18. Katherine Gould-Martin (*ZIP code: 88028*)

19. Deb Vail (ZIP code: 28698-9436)

20. Lisa Jimenez (ZIP code: 88061)

You have enough air space, no justification for more, so leave our wilderness skies alone!!

21. Robert Garrett (ZIP code: 88053)

I am opposed to the US Air Force expanding training flights of any kind over Wilderness and Tribal areas in /az and NM as they already have extensive areas for flight and combat training.

22. Louise Hummingbird (ZIP code: 87505)

23. martha blacklock (ZIP code: 88061)

24. Mike Moutoux (ZIP code: 88061)

25. Joseph Victor (ZIP code: 88049)

To: Federal Aviation Administration

From: Joseph Victor

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Thank you for consideration of my comments.

26. Margaret Hadderman (ZIP code: 88061)

The FAA should prevent the proposed expansion of low elevation Air Force combat training over southern Arizona and SW NM, as our forests and other public lands are steadily drying out, due to increasing heat and aridity from stronger winds & spotty rainfall (due to climate change). Wildlands

have become super-susceptible to fire; several species (both flora & fauna) are already on the run or facing extinction. Flammable flares and accidental crashes would substantially increase this fire risk. It makes no sense to substantially endanger existing airports, tribal communities, wildlife habitats, civil aviation or public safety.

AND, as any logarithmic decibel chart will show, jet engines are the strongest, most hearing-damaging noise generators in our everyday environment, compared to the sound of falling leaves in a forest--among the lowest! It would be totally irrational and horrific to subject ANY living thing to recurring, inescapable & EXTREME noise pollution from F-35 jet engines, not to mention sonic booms, during the proposed low-elevation supersonic flights. Think of songbirds trying to build nests and feed their young under such conditions.

Also: here are no readily available airstrips for emergency landings in the Gila Forest or Wilderness areas. Hikers and hunters could easily be flattened to the ground.

Southern AZ & SW NM may be viewed as essentially rural, but I don't think I'm living in "the middle of nowhere" or in a new Wild West where anything goes. I DO regard our wildlands as vital, fragile & noise-sensitive areas that should be permanently off limits for overhead military training exercises.

27. Laurel Johnson (ZIP code: 88061)

28. John Gioannini (ZIP code: 88005)

I strongly oppose military training near wilderness

29. Virginia McCoy (ZIP code: 88049)

Absolutely not!

30. PATRICE mutchnick (ZIP code: 88049)

31. linda berd (ZIP code: 87825)

32. Janet Albers (ZIP code: 88061)

Fire risk alone is reason to not allow expanded military air training in this area.

33. Abby Wetzel (ZIP code: 78666-9493)

34. Penny Scribner (ZIP code: 88006)

No flights over the Hila Wilderness!

35. Richard Wiedeman (ZIP code: 88061)

Wilderness is the last vestige of a peaceful earth

36. Twana Sparks (ZIP code: 88041)

37. Denise Jones (ZIP code: 88061)

The noise created by these flyovers will greatly disrupt the local ecosystem of birds, mammals, and humans. It will terrify the animals and disrupt their breeding patterns. The Gila wilderness, the reason many of us moved to this area, will be greatly harmed.

Please reconsider options that are available to you

38. Howie Richey (ZIP code: 88061)

39. AnneLiese Nachman (ZIP code: 88061)

40. JV Connors (ZIP code: 88061)

Please, save our wilderness! Don't let them destroy it!!!

41. Paula Manning-Lewis (ZIP code: 88049)

It sure seems like this issue comes up every couple of years. I and many of my neighbors are getting really tired of fighting this, though we will never stop! This is unacceptable for all the reasons given in the petition. The Gila Wilderness is a particularly sensitive area. Above all, it is a fire hazard to shoot flares and fly planes so low. Lots of people live out here, including myself, for the peace and quiet. Surely, the areas already in use are significant and sufficient for the USAF uses. Stay out of our wilderness and National Forests! Thank you.

42. Tim Staley (ZIP code: 88005)

enough is enough --- why don't you go fly your airplanes in some Third World country, stop destroying the AURAL landscape of Southern New Mexico, nobody wants this besides the hawks of the world

you have a department of war now, leave New Mexico out of it Bros, why don't you fly your jets over Washington DC along with your helicopters, let us have quiet out here in the desert

do you think people live and move in New Mexico because they wanna hear your jets every five minutes in the pristine wilderness areas? Give me a break

enough enough enough

go fly jets over your house every day not mine

43. Linda Anderson (ZIP code: 82210)

These flights are very destructive to wildlife, a deterrent to those trying to enjoy the forest and wilderness, and a significant fire risk to both wildlands and nearby communities. They need to stop.

44. duane marcus (ZIP code: 30083)

45. Jim Loveland (ZIP code: 33714-1970)

46. susan campbell (ZIP code: 85716)

47. Myrica Morningstar (ZIP code: 88049)

For all the reasons that we all spoke up about last time, I am shocked that this is even coming up again! The wilderness is no place for these military operations! It's very dangerous in the light of the possibility for fires, it's very disturbing to wildlife and Domesticated animals as well as humans. Please please keep our wilderness wild and silent!

48. Paul Katz (ZIP code: 88061)

49. John Willow (ZIP code: 88061)

Last September Twenty-six organizations and more than 12,000 individuals submitted hundreds of pages of comments and supporting documentation in opposition to the Air Force's proposal to expand Air Force training in the Gila Wilderness.

During public hearings conducted by the Air Force, the noise, fire hazards and all the other harmful effects on people and animal populations from F-16 training were shown to endanger public safety, exceeding the area's available resources for fighting fire and otherwise protecting the wildlife from threat. Their proposals were a danger to the economies of these small communities where outdoor recreation and tourism are undeniably necessary.

In the Draft Environmental Impact Statement produced by the Air Force then they threw up their hands and falsely asserted such socioeconomic impacts could not be calculated and therefore not worth considering. The DEIS was incomplete and inconsistent with the intention and transparency of the NEPA process.

Communities throughout southwest New Mexico strongly oppose F-16 training over the Gila. It doesn't make sense that the Air Force wants to fly an additional 10,000 F-16 training flights annually when it acknowledges it already has adequate airspace. This wilderness is a National Treasure after all and belongs to all Americans, we in New Mexico are just here to help.

In response to the Federal Aviation Administrations request for public comments regarding the U.S. Air Force (USAF) proposal, this low elevation combat training poses a significant threat to rural and tribal communities, public lands, civil aviation, public safety and our nationally protected wilderness. I urge that Holloman use its current airspace to meet its stated needs, please!

50. Carol Sassaman (ZIP code: 88041)

51. Luwana Wanaisie (ZIP code: 88049)

52. Pamela Morgan (ZIP code: 88061)

Flying over the Gila and the Chiricahuas is a threat to safety (flares for fire danger and supersonic booms for hearing and mental health) and a disregard for the qualities of peace & quiet (for both people and wildlife) that national forest/wilderness areas offer to the American people. There are also economic consequences to these areas as less visitors will go elsewhere and these rural towns will lose an important financial resource.

53. ALLYSON HEARST (ZIP code: 88061-9798)

54. Deborah Whittemore (ZIP code: 88061)

Keep the fly overs at Barry Goldwater!

55. Jamie Crockett (ZIP code: 88049)

The Gila Wilderness is an inappropriate location for Air Force training. These flights violate the Wilderness Act and endanger the people and wildlife within the protected area.

56. Stacy Wachs (ZIP code: 88049)

57. Elizabeth Spencer (ZIP code: 88061)

58. Abel Duffy (ZIP code: 88061)

59. Charmaine Wait (ZIP code: 88062)

We are in an extreme drought and with climate change will continue to be. These flyover with flares will greatly increase the danger of wildfires. No AF Training.

60. Jane Dunne-Brady (ZIP code: 88061)

The Air Force has no business doing flyovers over Gila Wilderness Areas and our communities and Tribal areas!!! Stop this potential endangerment of people and of animal species!!! AirForce, you are NOT WELCOME here!!!!

61. Barbara Stone (ZIP code: 88061)

Our Communities stood strong against the flyover plans. It's still a dangerous as well as nature destroying.

62. Tim OConnor (ZIP code: 88049)

63. Barbara Gabioud (ZIP code: 88061)

64. Mike Snodgrass (ZIP code: 85283)

65. C Latifa Amdur (ZIP code: 75223)

66. Cathy Owens (ZIP code: 88061)

67. Wendy Raven Phillips (ZIP code: 88061)

No flying or training over Wilderness areas or over Native lands There are no reasons good enough to expand over these areas.

68. Mary Gates (ZIP code: 88049)

69. John Malone (ZIP code: 88049)

70. Chuck Heard (ZIP code: 88042)

71. Francis Lenski (ZIP code: 98685)

72. Shelby Hallmark (ZIP code: 88061)

Places like the Gila National Forest, and especially its Wilderness areas, are precious refuges for humans and wildlife. There should be no warplanes anywhere near this unique and profoundly

peaceful place. Please disapprove the Air Force proposal.

73. Lisa Crowner (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Because of the massive airspace (horizontal and vertical) over a broad and sensitive geographic area (the multiple sensitive areas of residential/tribal, national forest, other federal lands, and smaller civil/private airports) that the Air Force is wanting to expand over, it will place an undue burden on rural communities and their surrounding ecosystems. Noise pollution from sonic booms, flammable flares that can cause wildfires in our extremely dry forests with resulting smoke (affecting the citizens safety, health and well being as well as likely property loss), and so many other environmental concerns down the line, are all likely to negatively impact us all on the ground and in the sky. Please reject the Air Force's proposal and restrict low elevation and supersonic flights, combat training, and dropping of chaff and flares, and consider other more prudent alternatives.

74. Mary A Weidner (*ZIP code: 88061*)

75. Donna Robertson (*ZIP code: 85250*)

76. Vipul Shah (*ZIP code: 85258*)

77. Deborah Oman (*ZIP code: 68503*)

78. Shari Morrison (*ZIP code: 88061*)

We are in a wilderness area. It is not appropriate for jets to be flying low over these protected sites. Please be honorable by not insisting on breaking the rules that Vongress set forth to protect wilderness areas. Please.

79. Kendra Milligan (*ZIP code: 88061*)

80. Andrea Chavez (*ZIP code: 88061*)

81. Katherine Ryan (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Please.

82. Mary Barrett (*ZIP code: 88061*)

83. David Phillips (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Please see commentary on first proposed alteration of fly zones when this was previously brought up.

84. Wendy Rundel (*ZIP code: 97520*)

85. Jay Metzler (*ZIP code: 54935*)

86. Deborah Snider (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Why can't we bring this issue to closure with a solid and loud "No!"?

87. E Parker (ZIP code: 88046)

3RD TIME I'VE SAID NO TO SUCH DISRESPECT FOR HUMAN LIVES, FOR OUR PROTECTED ANIMAL SPECIES, HABITATS. TO DESTROYING ENVIRONMENTS, COMMUNITIES, AND CULTURES.

PRACTICES WITH DANGEROUS LIVE FIRE IN A FOREST WITH NO RESOURCES FOR PREVENTION.

WHO WANTS THAT? WHO DOES THAT? AND WITH NO WATER RESOURCES AVAILABLE. ADD HARMFUL/DANGEROUS CHEMICALS, HARMFUL HUMAN NOISE LEVELS, ADD MORE SKY NOISE. LOSS OF OUR HOMES, CITYS TOWNS AND FARMS, RURAL AREAS AND PROTECTED FORESTS.

ESPECIALLY SINCE THE USAF STATES THEY ARE NOT TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIRES THEY MAY START???? WHO BELIEVES THIS IS ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR. ITS ALL A DEAL BREAKER FOR ME. WE ARE NOT AT WAR HERE! WE LIVE, WORK, FARM, BREATHE AND SURVIVE HERE. ON THE GROUND DO YOU SEE US DOWN HERE? I KNOW YOU WANT TO HAVE A PLACE TO PRACTICE. BUT WE DON'T WANT YOU ON THE PROPERTY WE BOUGHT AND PAY STATE TAXES ON AND YOU ARE NOT OFFERING TO BUY MY PROPERTY (ITS NOT FOR SALE) YOU WANT ME TO SAY ITS OKAY TO DEVALUE AND DESTROY MY LIFE BECAUSE THIS LOOKS LIKE A GOOD SPOT TO BLOW UP. AND YOU WILL FORCE ME OUT?

A JUDGE HAS HEARD OUR TESTIMONY, ON ALL THIS BEFORE AND RULED IN THE PEOPLES FAVOR

WE WILL DO IT OVER AND OVER TO SAVE OUR FORESTS AND LIVELIHOODS. AND CARELESS LIVE FIRE PRACTICES. ESPECIALLY WITH THE ABSENCE OF A WATER SOURC., THE CURRENT FIRES BURNING IN THE GILA, AND OUR AIR QUALITY DUE TO EXISTING FIRES IN THE USA AND CANADA

REMEMBER THE USAF HAS APPROVAL FOR AIR SPACE IN THE WHITE SANDS CORRIDOR. ARE THE PILOTS BORED?

"REMEMBER ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES"

SMOKEY THE BEAR BORN IN LINCOLN NEW MEXICO 1950'S

88. Jane Bruemmer (ZIP code: 88049)

No to expanded military training over southern Arizona and New Mexico.

89. Ronda Rice (ZIP code: 96746)

The sactity of the Gila wilderness and surrounding areas is not to be compromised by a military presence the upsets the balances and lives of all living things in that area. Please discontinue such activities.

90. Linda Pafford (ZIP code: 88041)

It is doesn't matter how high they fly, it is not possible to have military flyovers that do not disturb the wildlife in what is supposed to be a place of protection for that wildlife. What happens if there is any kind of accident, as can happen in high intensity training. Then adding the detritus from flares and flack, no one is being fooled about how inappropriate this proposal truly is. And yet there are arguments being created to pretend this plan is more important than the protection of our precious forests and wildlife. This land must survive long after these planes have become relics and technology has moved on.

Please do not authorize using this air space in this manner.

91. Shirley Myers (ZIP code: 87901)

92. Nancy Williamson (ZIP code: 88041)

Please disapprove the Air Force proposal. Thank you!

93. Jessica Noel (ZIP code: 91701)

94. Arow Parsons-Pineda (ZIP code: 88061)

95. Fred Pineda (ZIP code: 88041)

Expansion of these flights puts the environment at greater risk of fire.

96. Genevieve Noel (ZIP code: 55804)

97. Frankie Benoist (ZIP code: 88041)

98. William Maunders (ZIP code: 64131)

99. Debra Preusch (ZIP code: 88053)

100. Steve Sans (ZIP code: 88061-9120)

You've heard all the arguments already. At one time You chose to not have the flyovers. Nothing's changed since then except the environment is more sensitive. Please, no flyovers.

101. Maree McHugh (ZIP code: 88041)

102. Miki Cutler (ZIP code: 79912-3722)

103. Jim and Jackie Blurton (ZIP code: 88061)

104. Isabella Jones (ZIP code: 87107)

105. Rachel Bighley (ZIP code: 88061)

I want peaceful skies. We live with less income in a rural, small town because we value a more peaceful life.

106. Mark Widrlechner (ZIP code: 88061)

107. Cathleen Norman (ZIP code: 88061)

108. Martha Martinez del (ZIP code: 88061)

This is not necessary and totally disturbs the wildlife and area residents. It also poses a fire risk too.

109. Aari Werbee (ZIP code: 88061)

This needs to be stopped once and for all. The people have already spoken on this issue. No No No!!

110. Bonnie Rose (*ZIP code: 96067*)

111. Peter Stocke (*ZIP code: 88041*)

112. Barbara Barmore (*ZIP code: 85283*)

113. Sandra Haire (*ZIP code: 88601*)

114. Mary Beth Folia (*ZIP code: 88061*)

115. Doyne Wrealli (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Please leave our skies clear! Our economy depends on tourism and training runs are certainly not conducive to human recreation or wildlife procreation. We may never recover from the devastating wildfires this summer, please do not compound the damage.
Air force training can be accomplished elsewhere.

116. Maya Eilert (*ZIP code: 88062*)

117. Russell Coleman (*ZIP code: 75201*)

Having backpacked in the Gila Wilderness off and on for over 50 years I know of its unique beauty and tranquility. Please don't spoil the Gila for future generations.

118. Deborah Shatzkin (*ZIP code: 88049*)

Leave our peaceful skies alone.

Back in the 1980's flights like this broke the sound barrier, and broke our windows!

119. Joan Bacon (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Please protect our community from noisy and dangerous (flare dropping) Air Force low level flights.

120. steven shelendich (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Listen. Keep our wilderness quiet!

121. Carol Jiron (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Please leave our wonderful wilderness areas in peace!!!

122. Anthony Jiron (*ZIP code: 88061*)

NO military flights over the Gila! Too much noise and fire hazard, ruining the space for outdoor activities year-round.

123. Judith Dobkins (*ZIP code: 88061*)

124. Hugh CoLEMAN (*ZIP code: 76201*)

Save our precious wilderness

125. Melissa Amarello (*ZIP code: 88061*)

I live in an area that is already subjected to these flyovers, even though it is outside of the allowed area. The noise is terrifying and hurts my ears (probably damaging my hearing too). I can only imagine how traumatic it must be for my non-human neighbors that do not understand what's happening or for PTSD triggered by combat noise. Please don't make this combat training expansion legal.

126. Toni Prothero (ZIP code: 86001)

127. James Bergstrom (ZIP code: 85631)

Sirs,

Please accept my thoughts on this subject and follow up in the recommended ways

The environmental impacts of this proposal have not been properly assessed in the Air Force Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and therefore the FAA should reject the DEIS.

Additionally, The FAA must comply with its mandates under the Federal Transportation Act and comprehensively assess the noise impacts of the Air Force proposal on public lands, wildlife and historic sites, as well as evaluate prudent and reasonable alternatives, such as the BMGR, to avoid noise-sensitive areas.

Thank you for your attention.

128. Pattie Squiqui (ZIP code: 85373)

129. Robert Fischhoff (ZIP code: 87504)

130. Brian Jones (ZIP code: 85743)

131. Alexandra Tager (ZIP code: 88061)

132. Damie Nelson (ZIP code: 88053)

With the continuing drought brought on by climate change, the forests of the Southwest are more vulnerable than ever to wildfire. Flares, chaff and, god forbid, a jet crash, could easily cause a conflagration. Please keep fighter jets away from our precious national forests.

133. Susanna Love Wollard (ZIP code: 88061)

Keep the Gila peaceful

134. James OBannon (ZIP code: 75218-4442)

This is a wonderful, remote area. Please do not further disturb the peace of all living things in the Gila.

135. Pamela Bryant (ZIP code: 88061)

136. Delcie Dobrovolny (ZIP code: 87107)

137. Julie McIntyre (ZIP code: 88049)

I oppose the Air Force's proposal to expand military combat training over southern Arizona and southwest New Mexico.

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Thank you for consideration of my comments.

138. I. Engle (ZIP code: 88352)

139. Dawn Rae (ZIP code: 88061)

No military action in New Mexico!!

140. John Porter (ZIP code: 85615)

Maybe we can end this trillion dollar sport for good !?!

141. Susan Friar (ZIP code: 81428)

142. Jennie Humphrey (ZIP code: 88061)

143. Cindy Roper (ZIP code: 87059)

144. Peggy Yeargain (ZIP code: 85268)

145. SCOTT CAMERON (ZIP code: 87505)

146. Marshall Hirsch, RN BSN (ZIP code: 88065)

To the FAA,

As an RN working with a vast range of serious public health challenges, everyday I see the devastating effects of policies enacted by local, state, and government agencies that do not serve the best interests of the ordinary American people.

The USAF proposal to expand low elevation combat training across southern Arizona and southwest New Mexico will create tremendous stress to untold numbers of people, traumatizing ordinary citizens and re-traumatizing all our veterans with PTSD. The FAA's role in this USAF decision, must consider, review, and factor in the countless public comments, the highly articulate and well reasoned expert opinions from scientists, organizations that serve public interests, and all the stakeholders of the AZ and NM outdoor recreation and tourism economies.

Our community's health, well being, and livelihood is at stake.

The health of our lands, and wild places, and wildlife is also at stake.

The outdoor recreation and tourism economy is at stake.

The livelihoods of all the ordinary citizens who live and are intertwined with all the above mentioned factors, are all threatened.

Almost unanimously, all the comments already submitted to the USAF about this proposed expansion have been against it.

For the well being of all concerned, for the impact on generations to come, more than any one person or agency could ever put into words, please do not give support to the USAF's expansion proposal.

I honor all our dedicated USAF servicemen and women, I wish to make this point very clear.

The USAF must not make a decision that the vast majority of all sectors of society completely oppose. It is that simple.

Please listen to these critically important comments.

Thank you,

Marshall Hirsch, RN, BSN

147. Paula Foster (ZIP code: 77536)

148. Peter Gorman (ZIP code: 88061)

The Gila should be an area of quiet and few disturbances .

149. Leia Barnett (ZIP code: 87504)

The Gila is known for its cultural, ecological, and historical values, and its special, remote, rural communities. Expanded military training exercises would threaten everything that's special about this landscape. This is not the appropriate place to conduct sub-sonic or super-sonic flights, to drop chaff and/or flares, and to otherwise jeopardize the quietude of the wilderness.

150. Cordelia Rose (ZIP code: 88039)

I live at the West entrance to the Gila Wilderness. In the 2000's I had pairs of F16s flying over my property on VR 176 so low that I could see through the cockpit. I have experienced riding my horse on Gold Dust trail FS 41 above the Catwalk when F16s flew below me along the Catwalk canyon.

The noise is deafening and startling.

The last thing we need are flares being dropped over our fire sensitive land especially the Gila Wilderness. cf the Whitewater Baldy fire in 2012, the largest fire in New Mexico.

Also, there are two runways on Whitewater Mesa: E.94 on USDA FS land and a private one on a ranch.

151. Ronald Henry (ZIP code: 88061)

Please reject this proposal and support expanded training practices at the Barry M Goldwater Range restricted airspace. Thank you.

152. SaraJean Zamora (ZIP code: 87935)

153. Joanne Cockerill (*ZIP code: 88061*)

154. Sandra and Glenn Griffin (*ZIP code: 88061-7475*)

Our public comments are no to the Arizona RSOP) proposal. Lowered altitude floors for supersonic flight training, for chaff and flares will result in tragic crashes and forest fires.

The world's first wilderness is already under attack by increased logging, mining, budget cuts and the repeal of the Roadless Rule.

Low flyovers will go into migratory birds and our local Gila Regional Hospital's several times daily helicopter emergency flyouts.

No!

155. Dorene Haw (*ZIP code: 88061*)

156. Kevin Hearst (*ZIP code: 88061-8818*)

157. John Stocke (*ZIP code: 88041*)

respect rural values; respect natural places; respect wilderness that is diminishing as we watch.

158. Paula Stevens (*ZIP code: 88061*)

159. Sherry Pollock (*ZIP code: 96703*)

160. Leslie Jiron (*ZIP code: 87830*)

I oppose the Air Force's proposal to expand military combat training over Southwest New Mexico in southern Arizona.

161. Carl Levi (*ZIP code: 88053*)

The latest proposal to implement the expansion of low elevation combat training is every bit as flawed and dangerous in many ways and is as unnecessary and poorly thought out as similar plans have been. The proposal would threaten the livelihoods of thousands of people who depend on the Gila National Forest and other forests which would be similarly affected. Given the extreme drought conditions that have only worsened significantly since the last such proposal was defeated, it is an unconscionably dishonest plan which utterly ignores common sense and past history. The forests are already heavily stressed and vulnerable to huge, disastrous fires, and a single flare which does not stop burning as quickly as it should could cost millions - if not billions! - of dollars in damage, suppression costs and, quite possibly, the lives of firefighters and residents of the affected areas and cities. What happened in Los Angeles could happen in other large cities, and we want no part of it. STOP THE AGGRESSIVE INSANITY!!!!

162. LISA HELM (*ZIP code: 87410*)

163. Elizabeth Tudor (*ZIP code: 88042*)

164. Zack Crockett (*ZIP code: 88049*)

Low level flights are inappropriate over wilderness areas that were created to give people and wildlife a place of peace and solitude. They also startle horses creating a dangerous situation for riders.

165. Travis Cormack (*ZIP code: 06108*)

166. christa romppanen (*ZIP code: 85362*)

these planes cause havoc when low flying over small rural communities.

167. Lois Rose (*ZIP code: 85641*)

168. Nasrin Mazuji (*ZIP code: 85635*)

169. SHEILA SOWDER (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Our town is next to the Gila Forest and susceptible to fires. This plan will increase our risk. We also rely on the tourism the forest brings and our residents use the forest for camping and hiking. Your plan would also disrupt wildlife in the forest and interfere with the ecological order.

170. Melinda Austin (*ZIP code: 88061*)

The Gila National Forest is already struggling to recover from past fires and does not need to be subjected to this type of activity. Our small communities also do not need to be subjected to sonic booms. It will be devastating to our pristine way of life in southwestern New Mexico, both for the people and wildlife and our outdoor economy

171. Mary Cavett (*ZIP code: 87901*)

Please, no more military flights over the Gila. We are already stressed by frequent fires and the animal population is already stressed by loud noises and pollution. Please confine your flights to already approved areas.

172. Shaun Barnett (*ZIP code: 85027*)

This practice will disturb communities, both human and wildlife, with excessive noise and stress. In addition to increasing the risk of wildfires in an area already plagued by wildfire disaster and damage where hundreds if not thousands of acres are lost every year to wildfires caused by human carelessness and natural cause. Unnecessary military recklessness and stupidity are not needed to increase these already substantial dangers. This is another example of the current administration attempting to take advantage of poor and disadvantaged people in an attempt to provoke outrage, irritate the population, and cause unrest while pushing the military into the spotlight in hopes of intimidating the populace. Stop being compliant in the dismantling of our country.

173. Crystal O'Connell (*ZIP code: 88061*)

174. Rachel Johnson (*ZIP code: 87507-3339*)

175. Heather Hintze (*ZIP code: 87830*)

I oppose the air forces proposal to expand military combat training over southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico.

176. Janet E Foster (ZIP code: 88061)

Our communities, which include myriad communities of animal and plant life are endangered by proposed flights. There are animals whose breeding and feeding cannot withstand the noise of these flights, nor can humans live quality lives with sonic booms and the noise of passing jets. Flammable flares do not belong in forests, nor over our homes and farms. Fly them over your own cities and suburbs if you really believe they are harmless!

177. Arthur Ratcliffe (ZIP code: 88061)

Concerning the current proposal which would increase F-16 and F-35 aircraft flights from Davis-Monthan and Luke Air Force bases, and A-10 flights from Morris Air National Guard base in Arizona, and support aircraft such as re-fuelers; the proposal contains four possible plans, with the Air Force favoring an option that includes the Morenci and Reserve MOAs. Those two areas include airspace over Grant and Catron counties, in western New Mexico, including about 42 percent of the Gila Wilderness, many wildlife refuges and study areas as well as several miles of the Continental Divide Trail.

In those two areas, the proposal would lower the altitude at which supersonic flights can occur from 30,000 feet above sea level to 5,000 feet above ground level, and increase the number of sortie training flights, from 3,350 to 4,050 per year.

The Tombstone MOA, which includes New Mexico's boot-heel and southeast Arizona, would see the greatest amount of change. If approved, that area would expand north by 10 nautical miles. Jets flying as low as 100 feet above ground, would release chaff, a countermeasure released by aircraft to confuse radar consisting of tiny, aluminum-coated glass fibers. Also, releases of high temperature (3000°C) flares that contain teflon which is made with PFAS forever chemicals. Both of these practices pollute the ground, flares have started fires, which are usually in inaccessible areas. Two F-16's have crashed and burned in New Mexico in the past two years, and an F-35 crashed on takeoff from the Sunport last year. All starting fires that had to be attended to by local, many volunteer, fire departments, as the Air Force does not respond to their fires.

A local pilot at one of the hearings, commented that civilian flights now allowed to fly directly north in western New Mexico, to Farmington, would then be required to fly in the Albuquerque corridor adding additional flight time and expense to their trips.

In addition to the adversities to the environment and to civilian air travel, there are psychological detriments of the disturbances. Personally, I moved here to Silver City from Phoenix Arizona, home of Luke AFB, precisely because of the effects of aircraft noise. I am a Navy veteran who lived aboard an aircraft carrier and subsequently experience hearing loss and have been diagnosed with PTSD. Following the advice of my psychologist, I moved from Phoenix to a quieter environment ideally suited to recovery from my condition. Since then, I have been buzzed by a F-16 that flew directly above my home and created a sonic boom. Exactly what I moved here to get away from. I and many like me strongly object to low altitude supersonic flights, and any increase of sub-sonic aircraft flying in our area.

178. Theresa Gredig (ZIP code: 85658)

While I want a strong military, they do not need to expand in this manner. We have plenty of areas in the southwest where these maneuvers are performed and we need places of respite. It is essential to the well being of humans as well as animals to have wild places and quiet places.

179. Teresa Griffith (ZIP code: 29316)

Stop flights over precious wilderness!!

180. Rhiannon Schurig (ZIP code: 85338)

181. Ralph Yehle (ZIP code: 55403)

182. Allison Waterman (ZIP code: 88061)

183. Lauri Costello MD (ZIP code: 87701)

Clear disruption to wildlife nervous systems, not to mention people!!

184. Douglas Smith (ZIP code: 88061)

185. Mark Hill (ZIP code: 85718)

186. Patricia Figueroa (ZIP code: 85206)

187. Mike StClair (ZIP code: 85119)

188. Susan Greene (ZIP code: 30047)

189. Judy Asbury (ZIP code: 87024)

190. Tom Ferguson (ZIP code: 85201)

191. Diane Ziegner (ZIP code: 99676)

Please stop this!

192. John Falvey (ZIP code: 87505)

193. Annie Duffy (ZIP code: 88061)

194. Ila Duffy (ZIP code: 88061)

195. Loretta Rabenau (ZIP code: 87943)

I experienced a bad horse (mule) wreck resulting in a broken back in the Black Range portion of the Gila while working on our ranch. A very low flying military aircraft was hot dogging and spooked my mule. I had to be taken by helicopter from the area we were riding. The low flying aircraft was out of Kansas City and was found be non-compliant both in altitude and air space. I still cringe and my heart races when I hear military aircraft coming. This was 20 some years ago. I won the lawsuit complaint after submitting all medical records and eye witness reports. I don't want anyone else to have to go through what I did.

196. Diane Smith (ZIP code: 88061)

These military training flights do not belong in the Gila Wilderness which is protected and sensitive habitat. There are already designated flight path areas in Southern AZ which are more appropriate and would be less impacted by sonic booms, releasing of chaff and risk of a crash causing fire.

197. Karel Zide (*ZIP code: 88030*)

198. Randy Chulick (*ZIP code: 88061*)

199. Lynn Grieco (*ZIP code: 34203*)

200. Nancy Coonridge (*ZIP code: 87827*)

We already get fly overs and don't need more!!

201. Will Mora (*ZIP code: 88061*)

202. Brenda Marshall (*ZIP code: 85737*)

203. Laurel Francis (*ZIP code: 96754*)

Spare the environment and the communities! Do necessary training on restricted airspace Range. Thank you.

204. Jeffrey Hager (*ZIP code: 92130*)

Please protect the quiet skies of the Gila Wilderness and National Forest. Low level, or frankly any level of USAF training should not be carried out over protected Wilderness, rural or tribal lands. In addition, in a land prone to wildfire, dropping of flares does not seem to be prudent and is not part of natural fire cycle. Any non-natural fire will undoubtedly put more pressure on already tight fire -fighting resourcing. Stop the USAF's plan now!

205. Kate Brown (*ZIP code: 88041-7534*)

My tiny toddler daughter was terrified when a very low flying fighter jet appeared over the hill where I live in the Mimbres Valley. She was truly traumatized and spoke about that "scary airplane" every night as she settled down to sleep for several years. Please hear this as you make your decision.

206. Heidi Romppanen (*ZIP code: 89048*)

207. Quail Strout (*ZIP code: 88042*)

208. Marc Jacobson (*ZIP code: 86337*)

209. Kim and Robert McCreery and Robbins (*ZIP code: 88061*)

We have lived in Silver City for over a decade, hiking and camping in many of the proposed MOAs. KM pretty much grew up on military bases, including the Edwards AFB where her dad was head of the then called Rocket Propulsion Lab. She has lived with pilot training.

Given significant risks to our rural and tribal communities, e.g., environmental pollution (chaff, including in the Gila Wilderness Area!), resounding negative impact on tourism and outdoor

recreation--- major economic drivers (e.g., retail trade and accommodation, food services for anglers, hunters, hikers, backpackers, campers), dropping flares increasing fire risk (we have had too many fires already!), sonic booms damaging homes, we urge you to use BMGR, where it's already occurring!

We ask the FAA to reject the DEIS because it does not comprehensively consider environmental impacts. The FAA is also required to thoroughly assess noise impacts and provide reasonable alternatives, like the BMGR.

Over many years, our rural communities have resoundingly rejected flight training in our skies. Are you listening? Do you care about our quality of life? Do you care about our wildlife, wild lands and cultural heritage that we value and millions in this country value as well?

210. Susan Weiss (*ZIP code: 20852*)

This is disruptive and disrespectful. Shame on the Air Force!

211. Robin Parsons (*ZIP code: 88041*)

212. Janie Valerio (*ZIP code: 88026*)

213. Banyan Claussen (*ZIP code: 88041*)

Please stop flying over us!

214. Forest Shomer (*ZIP code: 98368-0639*)

Violating Federal Wilderness in this way is explicitly immature behavior.

215. Peter Glaberman (*ZIP code: 48130*)

216. Jennifer Durkin (*ZIP code: 88061*)

217. Jonathan Titus (*ZIP code: 88061*)

September 15, 2025

Dear Sir/Madame,

We are writing about the U.S. Air Force's proposal to expand low elevation combat training across southern Arizona and southwest New Mexico. We are strongly opposed to this proposal to expand military combat training over rural communities and wild public lands.

The Air Force plan would authorize thousands of additional low-elevation fighter jet maneuvers, lower the floor for supersonic flights that cause sonic booms to as low as 5000 feet, allow subsonic flights to as low as 100 feet, and authorize dropping of flammable flares at low elevation. The proposed military training exercises will impact dozens of rural communities, numerous tribes and pueblos, and subject millions of acres of federal public lands to dramatically increased noise, pollution, and risk of fire.

Given all of the risks the FAA should reject the Air Force's proposal. The Air Force should restrict its combat training, such as low elevations, sonic booms, and the dropping of chaff and flares, to the Barry M. Goldwater Range where it's already happening.

There is no question that the Air Force proposal will negatively impact civil aviation with increased risk to pilot and public. The environmental impacts of the proposal have not been adequately assessed in the Air Force Draft Environmental Impact Statement so this Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be rejected.

The massive noise impacts of the Air Force proposal to public lands and wildlife have not been

addressed at all – thus, the only sensible course of action is to reject this proposal. We love being in the outdoors around Silver City – peace and quiet. The Air Force proposal would be extremely damaging to our public lands. We urge you to please reject the Air Force proposal. Thank you.
Jon & Priscilla Titus
1309 W. 7th St.
Silver City, NM 88061
titus@fredonia.edu

218. An anonymous signer (ZIP code: 27278)

219. Carolyn Peterson (ZIP code: 87801)

220. Johnna Morrow (ZIP code: 87110)

Please keep these lands wild and quiet.

221. Emily Warner (ZIP code: 88061)

A wilderness is the natural sanctuary in our world. To add significant noise pollution is incompatible with our ability to have a wilderness experience. Please respect this quiet natural place for all Americans.

222. Julia Ganson (ZIP code: 87939)

223. Penelope Mainz (ZIP code: 87112)

224. Emily Aversa (ZIP code: 88061-5717)

As a mother, a citizen who loves my peaceful home, and a business owner who relies on tourism, I strongly disapprove of the proposal to expand military combat training over my rural community and our public lands in southwestern New Mexico. Would you like this where you live?

225. Chris Lange (ZIP code: 85745)

Keep it at Barry Goldwater, that's what it's there for-

226. Brooke Franko (ZIP code: 15120)

227. Jody Andrews (ZIP code: 88061)

228. Kathy Lenniger (ZIP code: 99709)

Do not destroy nature - we need it to survive

229. Susan Price (ZIP code: 88061)

A wilderness by federal definition should not be disturbed by human vehicles. Wildlife and humans should not be disturbed by overhead aircraft, and should not be threatened by live flares falling in a drought dry forest that could start open and uncontrolled fire. I am against the airforce flying over the Gila Wilderness areas, which we, the community, is promoting for the tourist economy as a hiking, and recreation wilderness sanctuary. I beg you not to destroy this beautiful land. This is the 3rd time

in less than 10 years that the U.S. Airforce has attempted to go against the citizenry of this area who have objected vehemently to this flyover practicing.

230. Ruth Rusch (*ZIP code: 87106*)

231. Susan Moire (*ZIP code: 121971*)

232. Karen Nelson (*ZIP code: 86005*)

233. Stefanie Yellis (*ZIP code: 94618*)

234. Shawn Fink (*ZIP code: 85044*)

Keep these public and tribal lands safe and enjoyable.

235. Holly Muehlhausen (*ZIP code: 30531*)

236. Victoria Linehan (*ZIP code: 88039*)

237. Michele Wagner-Nebbia (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Close to the Gila, at my home in White Signal I have seen low flying military helicopters over my land that were so loud it sounded like they were going to land on my roof. The thought that it could be jets flying low is terrifying, this is not what should be happening over quiet, rural communities near the Gila. I do not live near a military base, my community and the wildlife that live here should not be terrorized by military training exercises.

238. George Cassell (*ZIP code: 88061*)

239. John Conway (*ZIP code: 85749-9628*)

240. Del Fehlig (*ZIP code: 91765*)

241. Bruce McKinney (*ZIP code: 88061*)

The Air Force proposal doesn't distinguish between air space over small towns and rural developed areas or over wilderness. They should go back to the drawing board and make a more limited proposal.

242. Emily White (*ZIP code: 88061*)

The flights that are already being done have too much impact on this wild place, and the future proposal will be much worse. The deer that I like to eat will be stressed due to the sudden noises from aircraft, and that's to say nothing about the humans that visit this special place.

243. Gwen Lacy (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Peace and Silence for present and future generations of the land and air.

244. Jon Whitsell (*ZIP code: 87505*)

I disapprove of the Air Force proposal to expand military combat training over rural communities and tribal and public lands in southern Arizona and southwest New Mexico.

245. Courtney Kerr (*ZIP code: 87505*)

246. Marc Levesque (*ZIP code: 88061*)

I strongly disapprove of the Air Force's proposal to expand military combat training over rural communities and tribal and public lands in southern Arizona and southwest New Mexico. Please keep our Gila Wilderness from being subjected to the harm caused by low flying jets. It's our last refuge of sanity in this world.

247. Margaret Bell (*ZIP code: 87107*)

248. Judith Novak (*ZIP code: 87501-2142*)

249. Susan Lyon Stone (*ZIP code: 27510*)

Please do not harm communities, public lands and the environment by expanding military training.

250. SHANNON PATRICK (*ZIP code: 88007*)

251. Louise Kahn (*ZIP code: 87108*)

252. Chris Calvert (*ZIP code: 87501*)

Not over Wilderness Areas

253. Timothy Peterson (*ZIP code: 87108*)

Our grandchildren will thank us for protecting these lands.

254. Dana Loy (*ZIP code: 87111*)

255. Cheryl Landgren (*ZIP code: 87107*)

Please do NOT approve expansion of military training in the skies over New Mexico. The noise impact has not been properly assessed and presents unnecessary risks to the sacred lands of the Gila Wilderness. Please disapprove the proposal presented by the air Force. Let the noise stay where its already happening!

256. Tony Chiaviello (*ZIP code: 88061*)

257. Stacey Hammer (*ZIP code: 88012*)

258. Carolbeth Elliott (*ZIP code: 88061*)

259. Mary Katherine Ray (*ZIP code: 87943*)

Low flying, screamingly loud aircraft are extremely disruptive not only to wildlife but to people who live below it. As someone who has experienced this, it triggers an adrenaline response- higher heart rate,

increased blood pressure. And I'm human. I can rationalize what is happening. Wildlife live in a perpetual state of higher awareness but cannot explain the noise. It is even worse for them. The release of chaff and flares over pristine wild places is nothing but irresponsible. Is the air force prepared for the cost of a mega wildfire caused by its actions? Not only financial, but the moral and ethical burden? Please reject this proposal to expand low level training flights over the public grasslands and forests and rural communities of SE AZ and SW NM- a place I live and love.

260. Eleanor C Eisenmenger (ZIP code: 87501)

Please restrict these harmful flyovers.

261. Tamara Gantzler (ZIP code: 88012)

262. Teresa Seamster (ZIP code: 87508)

Our wilderness areas nationally should be no-fly zones - especially for any tactical training. Noise pollution is as damaging to wildlife presence (and nesting-breeding) as are any motorized-mechanized intrusion.

263. margo wyse (ZIP code: 88049)

WE live here for THE QUIET...STOP DESTROYING NATURE!

264. Sandy Sulzman (ZIP code: 85296)

265. Sylvia Ulloa (ZIP code: 88011)

266. Karen Boehler (ZIP code: 88201)

267. Patricia Sheely (ZIP code: 87301)

268. Diana Crowson (ZIP code: 87031)

269. Michael Meade (ZIP code: 87501)

270. Debbie Sarinana (ZIP code: 87123)

271. Catherine Swain (ZIP code: 88062)

It's absurd to let the military fly over the gila national forest. First of all, our forests are getting so dry and stressed due to climate change. They should not be allowed to drop flares over our public forests. These are public lands! Our communities depend on tourism for the outdoors. Silver City is known as the gateway to the Gila.

Stop those jets from destroying our communities and national forests.

272. Deb H Cookingham (ZIP code: 88061:)

I live next to the Gila National Forest and do not want the planes and the shaft they drop on our forest as well as the noise from the planes. The pristine forests and lands need to be saved not destroyed. You have destroyed enough of our public lands. Please stop the flyovers.

273. Signa Larralde (ZIP code: 87508)

274. Derek Wallentinsen (ZIP code: 87112)

The Air Force believes that the solution to pollution is dilution in both time and space over the region. It's not. Adding areas, volumes of airspace and expanding flights to nearly around the clock is not a solution. It just spreads and increases the impacts of flight paths crossing the Gila and Apache Sitgreaves National Forests and the Gila Wilderness. Not to mention many other federal, tribal and private lands! Containing the impacts in the Barry M Goldwater Range is a much better approach.

275. Glen Salas (ZIP code: 87102)

276. L Watchempino (ZIP code: 87034)

The draft EIS failed to analyze, reasonable alternatives to the Air Force's proposed expansion of its military combat training area near communities, public lands, wildlife, and the environment.

Intrusive and disruptive military combat training should be restricted to areas like the Barry M. Goldwater Range where it's already taking place.

Rural and tribal communities should not be asked to sacrifice their airspace, safety, and welfare for military training, nor should the public be asked to relinquish the tranquility of our public lands and historic landscapes where wildlife and endangered species flourish.

The FAA must restrict expanded military training to the Barry M. Goldwater Range.

277. Scotti Romberg (ZIP code: 87109)

This new request to fly over wilderness areas affects, hunters, hikers, Indigenous people animals, this is not necessary

278. Gregory Campbell (ZIP code: 92024)

279. Burt Mittelstadt (ZIP code: 88061)

Please don't expand fly zone!

280. Catherine Lukes (ZIP code: 87048)

281. Susan Bouchonville (ZIP code: 87109)

282. Linda Schmidt (ZIP code: 87104)

283. Carol A Sassaman (ZIP code: 88041)

284. Lana Green (ZIP code: 87571)

Sonic noise is air pollution. End of comment!

285. James Graham (ZIP code: 88005)

286. Charles Fox (ZIP code: 87505)

There's no excuse for making more sacrifice zones out of the country the military exists to protect.

287. Nancy Woodward (ZIP code: 87505)

When I go to wilderness for some peace and quiet, i don't expect to have military jets roaring over. The people living in these areas also deserve their lives to be protected.

288. Terry Dunbar (ZIP code: 87111)

289. Morgan Paige (ZIP code: 88061)

290. Jean Stevens (ZIP code: 87557)

291. Shan OConnor (ZIP code: 85295)

292. DEANNA MOONEY (ZIP code: 88061)

293. Jeff Johnson (ZIP code: 88061)

I disapprove of the Air Force proposal to expand military combat training over rural communities and tribal and public lands in southern Arizona and southwest New Mexico.

The environmental impacts of the proposal have not been adequately assessed in the Air Force Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and therefore the FAA should reject the DEIS.

294. Kitty Barkley (ZIP code: 87505)

The FAA must protect rural, tribal and wilderness areas from dangerous air force training. Please do your job and protect these areas. Kitty Barkley

295. Jill Cliburn (ZIP code: 87508)

Please keep training flights to the vast spaces that are already affected by these missions. There must be a European model suggesting how countries manage to train when they don't have the same scale of land as the US. I would appreciate it if the FAA and USAF can "work smarter" not bigger.

296. Joseph Rochelle (ZIP code: 97405)

Over the years I have enjoyed the serenity and quiet beauty of the Gila Wilderness. I am totally against the proposal to allow low altitude training exercises over this pristine area. Please do not destroy one of our most beautiful and cherished space. Do training exercises elsewhere, please.

297. Alfredo Dominguez (ZIP code: 88202)

298. Stacie Slay (ZIP code: 87418)

299. Jody Benson (ZIP code: 87544)

300. Charles Carey (ZIP code: 88061)

Adding to the concerns above, while deep in the backcountry of the Gila wilderness I experienced the

disruption of a low level flight. Close enough to see the pilot. The sudden appearance and the noise, was a massive disruption in an otherwise tranquil day. It took us and I assume wildlife several hours to re-equilibrate to our normally peaceful surroundings. Further, thoughts of safety for the pilot were our concern, as, if anything went wrong, they were truly out in a place where help would have taken a long and difficult time.

301. L Jane Riger (*ZIP code: 88061-4706*)

302. John Mooney (*ZIP code: 88061*)

303. Barbara Rosensimon (*ZIP code: 87123*)

Please FAA disapprove the Air Force proposal to expand military combat training over rural communities, tribal and public lands in southern Arizona and southwest New Mexico.
Thank you

304. Glenn Yocum (*ZIP code: 87571*)

No elevation military flights over populated and tribal areas.

305. Kristin Graziano (*ZIP code: 87514-0837*)

As a New Mexican, I am strongly against this expansion because of the noise pollution and harm to residents and wildlife in the area.

306. Ona Porter (*ZIP code: 87104*)

307. Tristan Jiron (*ZIP code: 87830*)

I oppose the Air Force's proposal to expand military combat training over southern Arizona and southwest New Mexico.

308. Laura Mae Eaton (*ZIP code: 87505*)

309. Betty Kuhn (*ZIP code: 87505*)

310. Peggy Froelich (*ZIP code: 87025*)

The parameters of this expansion are hideously impactful to rural areas. There is no reason to expand rural fighter jet maneuvers beyond the Barry Goldwater Range.

311. Mary Westerlund (*ZIP code: 87109*)

Keep loud airplanes away from the Gila Wilderness Area

312. Ellen Caldwell (*ZIP code: 87048*)

Rural communities deserve to preserve the quiet of their area.

313. Betty Futrell (*ZIP code: 87048*)

314. Patricia Flasch (*ZIP code: 87505*)

315. David Caldwell (*ZIP code: 87048*)

316. Susan Tackman (*ZIP code: 87109*)

In the 1980s, the Catron County Commission fought this very same fight and won. Obviously the Air Force has a short memory. Subjecting rural areas and the wildlife and people who live there to sonic booms and disruptions from the air was wrong then and is wrong now.

317. Mike Schmidt (*ZIP code: 85304*)

318. Richard Scheiber (*ZIP code: 87123*)

319. Andy Payne (*ZIP code: 88061*)

To: Federal Aviation Administration

From: Andy Payne

Please deny the Air Force's proposal to expand military combat training over southern Arizona and southwest New Mexico.

Protect rural and tribal communities, public lands.

Just as with several other previous proposals by the Air Force, this one does not have enough scientific studies to prove that harm will not be done.

The train that the Air Force wants to do can and should be restricted to the Barry M. Goldwater Range where.

320. Josh Jiron (*ZIP code: 87830*)

321. Neal Bowen (*ZIP code: 87104*)

Noise and the potential for fire in the Gila Wilderness are a formula for destruction of the wilderness experience.

322. Marcia Gordon (*ZIP code: 87102*)

There has been no study published on the impact to wildlife in one of the last of our great wilderness areas

323. Joan Robins (*ZIP code: 87107-3086*)

Low flying planes flying over rural and tribal communities and wilderness areas endangers these communities and sacred sites . Stop these training flights.

324. Susan L Homer (*ZIP code: 87120*)

325. stan renfro (*ZIP code: 87024*)

326. Lynn Olson (ZIP code: 88030)

327. Linda Zatopek (ZIP code: 88061)

328. Liz Bessin (ZIP code: 87501)

329. Vynce Bourne (ZIP code: 88061)

330. Susan Ostlie (ZIP code: 87112-2505)

Low altitude flyovers and especially dropping of chad in wilderness areas and on other public and indigenous lands is absolutely not acceptable. There are already existing places for this military practice to be done, and it is not necessary to expand these flyovers to residential areas. It is disruptive to humans, wildlife, and the land itself.

331. Sarah Malone (ZIP code: 87008)

Military training over the proposed area in New Mexico is impactful to people and wildlife living in these areas. It is unacceptable to subject people and the environment to such misuse of our airspace.

332. Donna Detweiler (ZIP code: 87106)

333. Rebecca Arce (ZIP code: 92131)

The Gila is our nations first wilderness and should be persevered and respected. Wildlife needs a refuge from human activities.

334. Lisa Randall (ZIP code: 87507)

335. jeff ray (ZIP code: 88061)

336. Robert Moore (ZIP code: 85396-7001)

337. Joy Casey (ZIP code: 87501)

338. Juniper Tagliabue (ZIP code: 88047)

I oppose the Air Force's proposal to expand military combat training over southern Arizona and southwest New Mexico.

This proposed action will severely harm rural and tribal communities, public lands, wildlife and the environment, as well as civil aviation, pilot and public safety, local economies, and noise-sensitive areas. Noise and other environmental impacts must be fully assessed and accounted for. Training should be restricted to its current location and the rural and environmental character of the proposed expansion areas retained.

339. Julia Allen (ZIP code: 97132)

340. David Smith (*ZIP code: 87505*)

this is an unprecedented and unnecessary grab over currently peaceful first wilderness area Gila, and First Nations airspace

341. Robert Grant (*ZIP code: 87113*)

Expanding military flights over Gila is not needed.

342. An anonymous signer (*ZIP code: 87505*)

343. Ronald Parry (*ZIP code: 88061*)

I live in SW New Mexico, and I am strongly opposed to an expansion of military training in this area. There are wilderness areas here where military exercises are totally inappropriate. The noise from these exercises will disturb wildlife and disrupt the quiet sought by people living in the area. Fire is a major concern in the arid areas that will be impacted. Flares will pose a significant fire danger. The aluminized chaff dropped by the aircraft is not biodegradable. It will pollute the areas, including designated wilderness, beneath the training zones. Please use the Barry Goldwater Range for these exercises!

344. Hans Zimpel (*ZIP code: 88038*)

345. Lari Tiller Howell (*ZIP code: 87122*)

The Gila Wilderness and Chiricahua reservation are too fragile to withstand noise, pollution, and fire dangers of this operation. The FAA should recommend the USAF not expand into this sensitive space.

346. Jane Asche (*ZIP code: 88011-0962*)

347. Eleanor Smith (*ZIP code: 87420*)

I live in the Four Corners area of the Navajo Nation, where we often experience sonic booms and noise pollution from low flying military aircraft, which have caused windows to break, interrupt our daily lives, and create disharmony during our ceremonies. All low flying military aircraft operations over our sacred Navajo Nation lands must end!

348. Kelsey Bicknell (*ZIP code: 87110*)

349. Jennifer Lamborn (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Part of what makes a wilderness or roadless area so special is the QUIET. This is an experience we need in our very noisy world. Please conduct NO TRAINING over the Gila National Forest. No EXPANSION of air space, PLEASE!

350. Becky Glenn (*ZIP code: 88061*)

351. Norm Gagne (*ZIP code: 87108*)

Keep America's first wilderness as a refuge from the cares of daily life. Keep it quiet and peaceful, now and forever.

352. Mary Keller (ZIP code: 87068)

Protect our wilderness. No low altitude jets. Fly over White Sands instead.

353. Stacey Gagle (ZIP code: 88061)

354. Jody Norman (ZIP code: 88061)

I am writing to urge the FAA to deny the Air Force's request to expand low-elevation combat training flights across southern Arizona and southwest New Mexico.

This proposal endangers exactly what the FAA is tasked to safeguard: the safety of people on the ground, the integrity of rural and tribal communities, and the protection of sensitive wilderness areas.

Public safety: Low-flying military aircraft increase accident risks and expose residents to dangerous levels of noise pollution.

Community harm: Tribal nations and rural families will see their daily lives disrupted, cultural practices desecrated, and local economies undermined.

Environmental damage: Wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, and ecosystems already under stress will suffer irreparable harm from repeated sonic intrusions.

The FAA's mission is to regulate airspace for the benefit of the public, not to prioritize military convenience over civilian well-being. Approving this expansion would betray that mission.

I strongly urge you to reject this proposal and stand with the communities, ecosystems, and cultural landscapes you are charged to protect.

355. donna vetter (ZIP code: 85255)

356. David Becker (ZIP code: 88061)

357. anna blomfield (ZIP code: 88061)

358. Stephen Barr (ZIP code: 88265)

We need less military restricted areas! Not more!
All of central NM is already restricted to general aviation.

359. carolyn burns (ZIP code: 87501)

Do not contaminate our land, air, water, people, and animals in service of this regime's war games. The values of this regime are not the values of New Mexicans nor the values of most Americans.

360. Tj kristal (ZIP code: 85603)

To much noise pollution and we have dark sky's

361. Rebecca Beisenstein (ZIP code: 85618)

362. Amy Morse (ZIP code: 87122)

363. Sharman Russell (ZIP code: 88038)

364. Lorrie Epling (ZIP code: 94045)

We must protect our natural resources and wildlife

365. Linda Smith (ZIP code: 87123)

366. David Aldridge (ZIP code: 87107)

Expanding low-level training flights over SE Arizona and SW New Mexico constitute a new and additional threat too both nature and humanity in these areas. I am especially concerned about the local Indigenous peoples of these lands.

Dr. David F. Aldridge
Albuquerque, NM

Sierra Club and New Mexico Wilderness Association

367. Karen Timson (ZIP code: 88061)

This proposal would cause irreparable harm to our wilderness area and desert environment. Our locale is currently undergoing severe drought conditions and hotter seasons, which keep us in high fire danger most of the year. There are entire seasons that occur without the ability to even utilize chainsaws to remove dead trees on private property because of the high fire danger. Please consider residents and current conditions before you consider training exercises that could cause damage to our property, community, and environment. Thank you for your service and consideration.

368. Allen Olson (ZIP code: 87010)

I am sure the Air Force would argue that the areas in which they propose to conduct low elevation training are desolate areas uninhabited and unused by many people. This is simply not true. These areas are vast but people live there and many others visit to enjoy the pristine open space and natural beauty these areas provide. I ride my mule across the Chiricahua and Peloncillo Mtns. on a regular basis and what I see are 1) extensive wildlife, 2) people on the trails hiking, camping, and observing nature, 3) hunters during the season, and 4) cowboys tending to cattle. All will be severely affected by low flying jets. Wildlife will be disbursed, hikers, hunters, and birdwatchers will stop coming to the area depriving residents of needed tourist dollars. Lives will be endangered. While riding, I have had jets fly so low over my mule that I could see the pilot's face. The noise is deafening and spooks riding animals and pack stock. Riders have been thrown as a result and suffered serious injury in areas where rescue is difficult and time consuming. Keep the jets out. Do not destroy some of the last remaining great natural areas in the country. Allow people and wildlife to live, work and recreate there in peace. Allen Olson, Rodeo and Cerrillos, NM

369. Gary Clauss (ZIP code: 88039)

I am a hiker and these flights are noisy and dangerous. The flights are not appropriate for a wilderness area. Thank you

370. Susan Diaz (ZIP code: 87107)

371. Rachelle Rochelle (ZIP code: 87176)

I am requesting that the FAA disapprove the Air Force proposal to expand military combat training

over rural communities and tribal and public lands in southern Arizona and southwest New Mexico. This is a beautiful and sacred space to so many. It includes countless different species, as well as a place for us humans to get out in nature. Please do not let this move forward.

372. Victoria Park (*ZIP code: 87571*)

373. Linda Granato (*ZIP code: 19136*)

374. Brett Myrick (*ZIP code: 88038*)

I am adamantly opposed to any air training over the Gila Wilderness. We already went through this public process when Holloman Air Force base proposed expanding their MOA into the Gila Wilderness. Holloman saw fit not to expand into the Gila, now we fight 4 Arizona bases. I understand our need for operational readiness, Wilderness is absolutely not the place for this training. They have ample training opportunities elsewhere. I urge the FAA not to allow this expansion into New Mexico Gila Wilderness. Brett Myrick U.S. Navy SEAL team-5, 5th generation native of NM. Gila Resident

375. Albert Dole (*ZIP code: 88061*)

please, please do not fly military planes over the Gila National Forest. The noise is terrifying. The flares are much too great a risk of fire. Please just keep practicing over the BMGR and leave the Gila in peace.

376. Michael Scherer (*ZIP code: 88061*)

377. Jeanne Callahan (*ZIP code: 87939-9002*)

378. SUELLEN WAGNER (*ZIP code: 83340*)

This is horrible and unnecessary. Can you partner with a national environmental organization like Sierra Club or NRDC. Make sure to make actionable comments on FAA's website, so that you can sue later.

379. Jeffrey Colledge (*ZIP code: 87578*)

380. K Keep (*ZIP code: 88049*)

Disapprove the Air Force proposal to expand training areas.

381. Jennifer Edwards (*ZIP code: 87113*)

382. Marilyn Jackson (*ZIP code: 88061*)

I have experienced many sonic booms in Ajo due to the flyovers on the Goldwater bombing range. I can't believe you would need more practice area which would negatively impact the game and residents of our area.

383. John E Arguello (*ZIP code: 88026*)

The peacefulness of our communities and Wilderness Areas which are enjoyed by our retired community members and many, many others that come from faraway places to enjoy this peacefulness, is the core livelihood sustainability of the surrounding communities.

Please don't expand the peacefulness destructive air force training into our wilderness and communities.

The cost of fighting and the devastation of this year's forest fires next to our communities was immense and very disturbing to our communities' wellbeing.

Please keep this flight training where you presently operate.

Sincerely,

Thank you, John E. Arguello

384. Virginia Williams (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Military aircraft already have ample spaces to practice flying. The Gila National Forest and Wilderness need to be protected from the risks of flyovers, e.g., the disruption to the wildlife that call it home and the increased risks of wildfires.

385. Starr Belsky (*ZIP code: 88061*)

RE public safety and fire risk from flares: Per the DEIS, their analysis of the environmental impacts from flares is based on a study published in 1997, which would entail data collected prior to that year. This means data that are 28+ years. Conditions on the ground in the Southwest have vastly changed since then, making that report outdated and its information/conclusions misleading. It's an inaccurate source of information to rely on for safety-related decisionmaking. The fire risks have intensified over the decades, and increasing the number of flares dropped per annum and decreasing the minimum altitude for their release increases the opportunity for defective flares and erroneous practices to ignite dry vegetation while decreaseing the vertical distance that could act as a buffer to extinguish such flares. And this enhanced risk from their operations will be embedded in their operations indefinitely into the future, adding time and repetition as two more factors driving up fire risk in the increasingly vulnerable set of drought- stricken environments under these MOAs in the Southwest. For the safety of Americans living there and the protection of our country's natural resources, please reject the DAF's proposed changes.

386. John Song (*ZIP code: 88041-7529*)

Flights over the Wilderness areas and rural communities are intrusive for the the nature of the Gila Wilderness and present an unacceptable fire danger to an area in the center of the 30 year drought in the U.S.

387. Loretta Marrufo (*ZIP code: 88061*)

388. James McIntosh (*ZIP code: 88061*)

It's frustrating: Every few years, we keep having to stand against this needless appropriation of wild country by our nation's military. As an avid backcountry outdoorsman, as well as a defender of wild land, I once more stand in solidarity with the people of the Greater Gila Bioregion to protect our beloved backcountry--and to set limits in a country that seems to be increasingly militarized.

389. James Newton (*ZIP code: 88041*)

I strongly urge that NO EXPANSION OF OVERFLIGHTS be permitted in the areas of Arizona and New Mexico where the Air Force proposes to revise MOAs in order to increase the number of overflights and lower the altitude restrictions for overflights. Such flights should be limited to the Barry M. Goldwater Range, where they occur already.

The forested areas of New Mexico near my home are unique and precious ecosystems that serve vital needs for both residents and visitors to our area, and for the entire country. Overflights disrupt

fragile wildlife habitats, jeopardizing the flourishing of species that are essential to the viability of plant and animal communities necessary to the health of the forests. Overflights increase the risks of wildfires from flares and chaff, and they degrade these pristine settings in ways that undermine their suitability for recreational and economic pursuits that local people and tourists depend on.

We already witness overflights from time to time, so my opposition to them is based in part on my direct experience. Several years ago, as I was caring for our flock of chickens, two fighter jets flew low over our property. The roar was deafening, and the ground shook. Such low flights are traumatizing to people and livestock alike. They are completely incompatible with wise stewardship of public resources, now in the present and for future generations of Americans.

My position is that NO EXPANSION OF OVERFLIGHTS should be permitted in Arizona and New Mexico.

390. Barbara Stone (*ZIP code: 88061*)

Less than a year ago, the citizens of the Gila region soundly criticized and denounced this proposal. Why must we do this again? Working for peace is a much more effective means to secure our safety and prosperity. Military training is aggressive and confrontative resulting in a aggressive, confrontative response that only increases the risks. In the meantime, precious, irreplaceable resources are squandered.

391. Teleah Dabbs (*ZIP code: 88038*)

392. Rick Adler (*ZIP code: 88049*)

I have owned a 3 acre retreat since 1970 at Gila Hot Springs on the Gila river in the middle of the Gila national wilderness which is one of the largest protected wellness areas in the very first established by Teddy Roosevelt about 130 years ago and it has been quiet, peaceful natural there ever since for me, and for the thousands of people who hike, camp ride horses, fish, and pour the abundant wildlife and endangered species that live there. Please don't allow the sonic booms burned fuel and wildfires from crashes to ruin one of the view last quiet natural places left in the continental US

393. William Weddle (*ZIP code: 87943*)

No more expansion or uses of MOAs or Restricted Areas. Make it less.

394. Heather Samira Johnson (*ZIP code: 88038*)

395. Gillian Sherwood (*ZIP code: 88061*)

As a life long resident of SW New Mexico and a business owner in Silver City I strongly oppose any plans to increase the area allowed for combat training and military aviation into the Gila Forest or Gila Wilderness. Our community depends on outdoor tourism, including hunting, fishing and Continental Divide Trail through hikers. Our local economy would be adversely affected if military jet flights were increased in the peaceful Gila.

396. Isaac Fuegi (*ZIP code: 88038*)

397. Naava Koenigsberg (*ZIP code: 88061*)

398. Jeffrey Smith (*ZIP code: 88062*)

399. Cindy Kuenzi (*ZIP code: 87123-1810*)

The Air Force already has significant areas to train in this area. The area covers significant public land including the beloved Gila Wilderness. This is an overreach that has not been given sufficient attention to environmental impact or the impact on small communities. The FAA should send this back for modification, it is excessive.

400. Marion Newton (*ZIP code: 88041*)

I strongly disapprove of the proposed Air Force proposal to expand military combat training over rural communities, public lands, and tribal land in southern Arizona and southwest New Mexico! The dangers and loss to communities and the environment are well documented. Do not expand training flights in this area!



Re: my comments to the FAA to protect the Gila Wilderness from military training expansion

Arthur S Ratcliffe <ratrase@icloud.com>

Sat, Sep 13, 2025 at 4:09 PM

Concerning the current proposal which would increase F-16 and F-35 aircraft flights from Davis-Monthan and Luke Air Force bases, and A-10 flights from Morris Air National Guard base in Arizona, and support aircraft such as re-fuelers; the proposal contains four possible plans, with the Air Force favoring an option that includes the Morenci and Reserve MOAs. Those two areas include airspace over Grant and Catron counties, in western New Mexico, including about 42 percent of the Gila Wilderness, many wildlife refuges and study areas as well as several miles of the Continental Divide Trail.

In those two areas, the proposal would lower the altitude at which supersonic flights can occur from 30,000 feet above sea level to 5,000 feet above ground level, and increase the number of sortie training flights, from 3,350 to 4,050 per year.

The Tombstone MOA, which includes New Mexico's boot-heel and southeast Arizona, would see the greatest amount of change. If approved, that area would expand north by 10 nautical miles. Jets flying as low as 100 feet above ground, would release chaff, a countermeasure released by aircraft

to confuse radar consisting of tiny, aluminum-coated glass fibers. Also, releases of high temperature (3000°C) flares that contain teflon which is made with PFAS forever chemicals. Both of these practices pollute the ground, flares have started fires, which are usually in inaccessible areas. Two F-16's have crashed and burned in New Mexico in the past two years, and an F-35 crashed on takeoff from the Sunport last year. All starting fires that had to be attended to by local, many volunteer, fire departments, as the Air Force does not respond to their fires.

A local pilot at one of the hearings, commented that civilian flights now allowed to fly directly north in western New Mexico, to Farmington, would then be required to fly in the Albuquerque corridor adding additional flight time and expense to their trips.

In addition to the adversities to the environment and to civilian air travel, there are psychological detriments of the disturbances. Personally, I moved here to Silver City from Phoenix Arizona, home of Luke AFB, precisely because of the effects of aircraft noise. I am a Navy veteran who lived aboard an aircraft carrier and subsequently experience hearing loss and have been diagnosed with PTSD. Following the advice of my psychologist, I moved from Phoenix to a quieter environment ideally suited to recovery from my condition. Since then, I have been buzzed by a F-16 that flew directly above my home and created a sonic boom. Exactly what I moved here to

get away from. I and many like me strongly object to low altitude supersonic flights, and any increase of sub-sonic aircraft flying in our area.

Art Ratcliffe



Allyson at Peaceful Gila Skies <peacefulgilaskies@gmail.com>

Do Not Use Our Gila Forest Sky

Carol Auffrey <7ajcarol3@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 11, 2025 at 3:03 PM

To: peacefulgilaskies@gmail.com

Attention: JesseAcevedo and whoever else it may concern...

This is the second time I am writing to say, "stay out of our skies and forests" How many times do "we the people" of New Mexico have to say NO!

We live here, surrounded by these pristine mountains filled with a myriad of wildlife and the QUIET and that's the way we want it to stay.

It's bad enough we have had to deal with Mother Nature and her forest fires, we/I do not want you adding to the problem with loud supersonic sound and flares that not only will disrupt the human population, but the wildlife that are in abundance. What makes you think it's OK to rob them of the sanctity of their homes.

One of my fathers was a pilot, in later years his training took place in a mock up. Find a less disruptive way to train!

Again for those in the back, we/I DO NOT want flyovers conducted over the Gila Forest

Respectfully Submitted
Carol Jean Auffrey
575-590-2082



Allyson at Peaceful Gila Skies <peacefulgilaskies@gmail.com>

Opposition to Military Flyovers

Journeyman Jim <journeymanjim@gmail.com>
To: peacefulgilaskies@gmail.com

Sat, Sep 13, 2025 at 8:14 AM

I am in total opposition to Military Flyovers in the Gila National Forest or Gila Wilderness Area. There are plenty of options already available, other than the military continuing to take public lands without returning any back to the public.

Enough is enough!

James P Davis
Silver City
New Mexico