

To: 9-natl-csa-public-notice-airspace@faa.gov

Subject: Airspace Study 24-AWP-91-NR, Arizona RSOP proposal

Ladies/Gentlemen,

I have serious concerns about the U.S. Air Force proposal to have planes perform training missions, sometimes at supersonic speeds and at low altitudes, releasing flares and chaff, and at low elevations over wildlands and rural communities in New Mexico and Arizona. My family, friends, and I are frequent visitors to Southern Arizona and New Mexico. We explore the wild lands and study the flora and fauna. Our friends who live in these areas depend on the land, sky, beauty, solitude, and quiet.

Wildlife, Rural Living, and the Economy

Low-level and supersonic flights will disrupt the people and wildlife. The people live here for the peace and quiet as well as for the economic driver of visitors to their areas from hikers, hunters, anglers, and birders. This visitation will be disrupted. Farming and ranching will be disrupted. The people and their economies will suffer. The economies of New Mexico and Arizona will suffer. These proposed flights will have drastic negative consequences for all of these activities. The wild lands, National Forests, Wildlife Refuges, and Wilderness Areas are largely roadless areas where our large mammals, particularly bears, wolves, elk, deer, mountain lions, bobcats, javelinas, coatimundis, and many others reproduce and thrive. Wildlife habitats are greatly fragmented throughout the continental U.S. These areas in New Mexico and Arizona constitute a large contiguous wildlife area that will be lost due to low-level flights, supersonic flights, flares, and chaff.

Fire

People in these areas are the first responders to wildfires. As it is, they struggle mightily and with insufficient people-power and resources to respond to wildfires. Verified sources show that the flares from fighter planes and the unfortunate occasional fighter plane crash will create more catastrophic wildfires.

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Please do not disrupt Southern New Mexico and Arizona with these low-level, chaff and flare flights and supersonic flights.

Sincerely,
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