



## Cochise County Board of Supervisors

*Public Programs...Personal Service*  
www.cochise.az.gov

**PATRICK G. CALL**  
Chairman  
District 1

**MICHAEL J. ORTEGA**  
County Administrator

**ANN ENGLISH**  
Vice-Chairman  
District 2

**JAMES E. VLAHOVICH**  
Deputy County Administrator

**RICHARD R. SEARLE**  
Supervisor  
District 3

**ARLETHE G. RIOS**  
Clerk of the Board

March 2, 2015

Travis Schulte  
Legislative Liaison  
Military Installation Fund Program Manager  
Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs  
5636 East McDowell Road, M5101  
Phoenix, AZ 85008  
(602) 267-2732  
[MIF@azdema.gov](mailto:MIF@azdema.gov)

Re: Letter of Support for Arizona Land and Water Trust's 2015 MIF Application

Dear Travis:

We are pleased to provide this letter of support for the Arizona Land and Water Trust ("Trust") in its application for the 2015 Military Installation Fund (MIF). Being that we encourage open space, wise water use as well as sustaining natural resources; we readily support the Trust's project which aims to ultimately conserve 5,900 acres of important working ranches, and wildlife habitat, within the watershed of the Babacomari River ("Properties"). Furthermore, Fort Huachuca is a significant economic driver in Cochise County and protecting the Properties helps maintain a critical buffer around the Fort that will enable them to continue running critical missions and trainings.

The Properties serve as key remaining sites for native grasses, habitat for sensitive and protected species, and conserving them would help minimize groundwater depletion in the rapidly growing Huachuca City/Sierra Vista area. Furthermore, conserving these lands will help retain linkages between current protected areas within Cochise County, providing larger landscape connectivity and helping to maintain the world-class diversity of this region.

The subject Properties are significant not only because of their active ranching status and wildlife conservation values, but also since safeguarding these lands and keeping them as open space, would prevent the drilling of new wells needed for new homes and the inevitable depletion of the groundwater supply. As such, the permanent preservation of these subject properties will undeniably further the protection of water in this critical growth area of Arizona.

Yet, regardless of the vital roles these Properties play, Arizona landowners continue to face economic struggles, making development of these significant lands an imminent threat. Although landowners desire to conserve their lands in perpetuity and remain agricultural contributors to the local rural economy, it is probable that if these Properties are not acquired for conservation, they will be developed.

For the aforementioned reasons, we support the Trust's goal of conserving the subject Properties and these key Arizona lands. Doing so will be integral in ensuring that these existing conservation values are sustained for all Arizonans to enjoy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Pat Call, Chairman  
Cochise County Board of Supervisors