



# Cochise County Board of Supervisors

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Clerk of the Board

March 23, 2021

The University of Arizona's Natural Resource Law & Policy Center  
State Administration Office  
PO Box 210036  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0036

To Whom It May Concern:

Cochise County supports the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) decision to continue to allow grazing in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA). The County was a participating agency in the formulation of the current BLM Management Plan for SPRNCA and agrees with the final BLM decision to allow grazing in the Conservation Area. The BLM's Management Plan is also consistent with our [County's Comprehensive Plan](#), which is a requirement of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). FLPMA requires federal agencies to allow local governments to participate in the developing of land use plans, to cooperate and coordinate with local governments in developing such plans, and to ensure that federal policies are consistent with policies of local governments.

Cochise County's Comprehensive Plan was originally adopted in 1984 and was Amended and updated in 2015. Per our Plan, "Agricultural uses, including grazing, should be permitted on all public lands within limits consistent with multiple use and conservation goals" (page 14). Further, in relation to the SPRNCA, our Plan states, "Cochise County recognizes both the historic and current value of the SPRNCA as a national riparian wildlife habitat, migratory bird corridor, recreational and *agricultural resource*, and critical habitat for an endangered species" (page 15; emphasis added).

The Bureau of Land Management's current plan, which recognizes the benefit of using livestock as a tool to manage the Riparian National Conservation Area, was created after several years of public input, public comment, and study. The Plan takes in the science, the cultural history of the San Pedro River, and the economy of Cochise County in its final decision to continue to allow grazing in the SPRNCA.

Sincerely,

Ann English  
Chairman (District 2)

Peggy Judd  
Vice-Chairman (District 3)

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