



May 6, 2015

Senator John McCain  
241 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: S. 782 – Grand Canyon Bison Management Act

Dear Senator McCain:

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, I write today to express support for S. 782, the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act. This legislation represents a well thought-out and reasonable approach to addressing the ongoing damage to cultural and natural resources caused by the overpopulation of bison in Grand Canyon National Park.

Since 1989 the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation has maintained a singleness of purpose that has guided the organization to become the most respected and trusted sportsmen's organization in the political arena. CSF's mission is to work with Congress, governors, and state legislatures to protect and advance hunting, angling, recreational shooting, and trapping. The unique and collective force of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC) and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), working closely with CSF, and with the support of major hunting, recreational fishing & shooting, and trapping organizations, serves as an unprecedented network of pro-sportsmen elected officials that advance the interests of America's hunters and anglers.

As a member of the CSC and supporter of our country's outdoor heritage, CSF applauds your efforts to recognize the role that sportsmen and women play in managing and sustaining wildlife populations through regulated taking of wildlife. In the case of the Grand Canyon bison herd, existing National Park Service laws and regulations that limit the Arizona Game and Fish Commission's ability to actively manage wildlife through hunting serve as a prime example of how limiting the availability of science-based wildlife management techniques can have detrimental impacts to some of our nation's most treasured natural resources.

**The Sportsmen's Link to Congress**

S. 782 addresses this concern by directing the Secretary of Interior to develop a bison management plan that relies on using skilled public volunteers that have been issued a valid hunting license by the State of Arizona to reduce bison populations in Grand Canyon National Park to appropriate levels. In addition to furthering resource management goals, this approach would be more cost effective than hiring professional sharpshooters to cull the herd or utilizing birth-control agents; would generate revenue to support wildlife management and conservation in Arizona and would likely trigger bison movement out of the National Park, therefore creating additional hunting opportunity on adjacent lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service.

Furthermore, S. 782 allows licensed skilled volunteers to remove bison harvested from within Grand Canyon National Park to put these animals to beneficial use. This provision is consistent with the North American Model Wildlife Conservation Model which calls for non-frivolous use of wildlife.

With these factors in mind, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation is pleased to offer its support of S. 782.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Treharne', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andy Treharne  
Western States Director  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation