



Position Statement on Kofa National Wildlife Refuge
June 2007

The Arizona Wildlife Federation, in recognition of the extreme and unique conditions the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge desert bighorn sheep population is experiencing, wishes go on record as approving and supporting the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other interested parties in the creation and maintenance of wildlife water catchments within the Kofa Refuge.

“The Investigative Report and Recommendations on the Kofa Bighorn Sheep Herd”, contains specific recommendations for science based restoration efforts of the desert bighorn sheep herd. The creation and maintenance of water catchments will be an important component of this comprehensive effort. To disallow this “tool” in a time period of extreme stress from a variety of factors within Arizona, and specifically the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, is arbitrary and foolish.

It is the AWF’s belief that human intervention is occasionally necessary to enable resident wildlife to survive in desperate circumstances, and that management of wilderness should allow that flexibility, when management agencies and biological data support such actions.