

Sample Letter

Your name
Address
City, AZ 85XXX
Date:

Ms. Lisa Atkins
Commissioner of Arizona State Land Department
1616 W. Adams Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Commissioner Atkins:

I have volunteered at Patagonia Lake State Park since 2008 and I am an active member of the Friends of Sonoita Creek. Many of us are concerned about the damage and dangers of having livestock grazing in the Birding Area of the Park. There are many issues of concern here. Because of my work leading scientific stream assessments of Sonoita Creek I am focusing on my particular interest in the health of the creek.

My specific concerns are:

- The presence of livestock contributes to habitat destruction, streambank breakdown and soil compaction.
- Soil compaction by livestock leads to the proliferation of invasive plant species such as Bermuda grass and cockleburs that crowd out native plants.
- Livestock have caused erosion of the entire riparian area, which contributes to more rapid silting of the lake, shortening its useable life.
- Erosion causes entrenchment of the stream preventing it from spreading out and watering the entire area. This leads to a lowering of groundwater levels and deprives the trees and other vegetation of water essential to maintaining a healthy riparian environment.

The Birding Area of Patagonia Lake State Park attracts thousands of visitors from all over the world each year. As such, it boosts park revenues. In addition, its designation as an important birding area (IBA) indicates its scientific importance as a haven for over 300 species of birds.

Establishing secure and efficient fencing around the entire riparian area above Patagonia Lake is essential to a healthy habitat and to the safety of park visitors.

Thank you for helping to protect this unique area, a jewel of the State Park system.

Sincerely,

Your name