

Sample Letter

Your name
Address
City, AZ 85XXX
Date:

Mr. Robert Broscheid
Director of Arizona State Parks and Trails
1110 W. Washington Street
Suite 100
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Director Broscheid,

For many years I have been concerned with the very negative impact livestock have had on the Important Bird Area (IBA) adjacent to Patagonia Lake along Sonoita Creek. In addition to a State Land Board Special Land Use Permit which allows cattle to utilize the riparian adjacent habitats along Sonoita Creek, there have been continuing issues with trespassing cattle and horses grazing the same riparian zones. The result of this long-term grazing regimen has caused serious damage to the stream and adjacent habitats. There is a body of research that demonstrates the damage caused by livestock use of riparian habitats in Arizona and its impacts on dependent plant and animal communities. This is especially true for Southern Arizona riparian communities including Sonoita creek.

More than 315 species of resident, migratory and Mexican birds have been recorded along Sonoita Creek and other Southern Arizona stream sides. The birding trail at Patagonia Lake State Park is an internationally recognized birding site. The badly degraded riparian habitats significantly reduce diversity, density, and distribution of birds in the IBA. This, in turn, has negative impacts on the very significant economic benefits in Southern Arizona and especially the Park and surrounding communities.

I believe solutions can be found to restore and protect the IBA. All livestock should be removed from lands around the IBA at Patagonia Lake. Fence building and maintenance should be started to effectively protect the Sonoita Creek corridor from further damage. The State Parks Commercial lease for the State Land around the lake and adjoining riparian areas above the lake should be adjusted to reflect a boundary that would effectively exclude livestock.

Sincerely,

Your name