April 27, 2020

Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge

Attn: Wildlife Refuge Specialist Joshua Smith

P.O. Box 109

Sasabe, AZ 85633

Re: Hunt Comments Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge

Dear Mr Smith,

Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club (YVRGC) is a 501c-3 nonprofit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation, habitat restoration, youth recruitment, retention and educating activities and informing sportsmen and women on the issues important to their passions. YVRGC consists of 600+ organized members and is affiliated with Arizona Sportsman for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) and Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF).

YVRGC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (BANWR) draft Hunt Plan (HP), draft Compatibility Determination (CD) and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) dated April 2020. We concur the actions proposed in the draft EA and HP align with the goals and guiding principles of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and are compatible with the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS).

YVRGC supports the Proposed Action Alternative: Alternative B – Expand Hunting Opportunities as Described in the 2020 Hunt Plan. Increased hunting opportunities on BANWR will contribute to responsible wildlife management and may aid in the restoration of Endangered Species currently located on the refuge. We believe the intent of Secretary of the Interior Order 3356 and Executive Order 13443 are reflected in Alternative B.

We commend the BANWR staff for their close work with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) in aligning agency regulations and seasons. We believe the goals of each agency are largely aligned with the responsible and scientific management of Arizona’s wildlife. We encourage further alignment with AZGFD hunt regulations to reduce predator pressure on endangered species. We also commend staff for recognizing these additional hunting opportunities and supporting their incorporation into the management strategy of the BANWR.

Respectfully,

Patrick Headington

President