



## Liberty Wildlife

Rehabilitation | Education | Conservation

To whom it may concern,

It has been brought to our attention that you have plans to build on a piece of land in the state of Arizona. We understand that Arizona is a growing state with a lot of opportunity. Part of the benefits of the opportunity is the presence of a great deal of natural habitats that are teeming with protected species.

Liberty Wildlife and other wildlife rescue organizations in the valley are committed to the conservation of these habitats and the animals that live there. As a non-profit rehabilitation center, Liberty Wildlife must follow the laws set forth by both Arizona Game and Fish and the US Fish and Wildlife service in order to keep our state and federal permits.

As you consider building in Arizona, we would like to make you aware of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This federal act protects all migratory bird species from most disturbances during their breeding and nesting season. Due to our weather, we have a long period of time during which birds can and do nest (generally March-October). During these sensitive months, active nests and their contents cannot be disturbed.

The only way to safeguard yourself and your company from violating a federal act would be to be proactive and have the area surveyed by a legally permitted company or organization and, if any active nests are found, apply for a permit through US Fish and Wildlife to have them safely removed by a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

Some of the species that are regularly found in our urban settings and out-lying areas include hummingbirds, mockingbirds, grackles, dove species, warblers, cuckoos, thrashers and countless other song-bird type species. Arizona also has a wide variety of birds of prey such as hawks, owls, falcons and even eagles (which have another level of protection by US Fish and Wildlife). Included in this category is the Western burrowing owl, which is a small owl that makes its home in tunneling systems underground.

Local residents are very aware of the wildlife in their areas and many are upset when landscapers come in to change the scenery. They call us and law enforcement to make sure that the animals are considered during planning. At Liberty Wildlife, we have a small team of biologists who can survey lands and help determine best course of action for protected bird species found in the project boundaries. We also are a permitted wildlife rehabilitation center, so we can remove protected species once your company has a permit from US Fish and Wildlife. We keep the animals at our facility until we find a proper relocation spot and time.

We thank you for taking the time to ensure you are keeping the local habitat's health in mind as you build. There are a number of consulting agencies and wildlife rehabilitation centers in the valley that can help you with each step. If you would like more information or a proposal and cost estimate from Liberty Wildlife, please email [research@libertywildlife.org](mailto:research@libertywildlife.org) with an introduction of yourself and your planned project.

Thank you so much,

Laura Hackett, Wildlife Biologist at Liberty Wildlife

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