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ARIZONA WILDLIFE NEWS

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AWF Mission Statement

AWF is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating, inspiring and assisting individuals to value, conserve, enhance, manage and protect wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Front Cover: Photo by Colleen Muniuk-Sperry
Back Cover: Photo by Jeff Sorensen

Please visit Colleen's website at <http://cms-photo.com/>
You can read about Colleen in this issue on page 12 and get information on ordering her book *Wild in Arizona: Photographing Arizona's Wildflowers* on page 14.

Interested in Jeff Sorensen's photography? You can contact him at: sorensenphotography@hotmail.com

If you have a photograph or painting that you would like to submit for consideration on a future cover of *Arizona Wildlife News*, please contact AWF at the address below.



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President's Corner

By Tom Mackin

By the time this issue goes to print, we will have passed the Winter Solstice and another calendar year will be history. For many of us, this was a year of significant challenges, fraught with economic uncertainties, political upheavals and continuing conflicts in many parts of the world. While we may not have personally suffered some of the consequences of these activities I'm sure we know folks that have been impacted or affected by these and many other challenges. For many of us older folks, it seems that hardly a month goes by that we don't suffer the loss of a loved one, a close friend or associate, a fellow church or organization member or even a neighbor and passing acquaintance. Many of these occurrences are part of nature and we have little to no control over these activities so we try to handle them as they occur in the best way we can. For many of us, these actions frequently spur us on to make changes or improvements in our lives or the lives of others and so with the New Year we formulate resolutions to assist in achieving those changes we would like to see. Unfortunately, these resolutions are often quite lofty or too challenging and they are quickly forgotten or ignored. It is in this context that I would like to propose some ideas for your consideration as we start a new year and perhaps we can implement some of those changes we would like to see for the wildlife and wild places in our wonderful state.

The Wallow Fire and others in SE Arizona this year were beyond comprehension in total acreage and potential devastation but fire plays a very important role in nature when coupled with other naturally occurring conditions. Towards that end, I would encourage you to learn about the Four Forest Restoration Initiative, 4FRI, and how this plan to restore over 2,000,000 acres of important forest habitat across north central Arizona to a natural condition with the hope of minimizing future catastrophic fires as well as providing economic benefits to many of our rural areas. As with many programs, funding for this effort is still undecided but if you resolve to contact your political representatives and voice your support for this activity, you can help make a change that affects each of us in our state. The same can be said of the plans that are currently underway to identify those areas that are appropriate for solar and other

alternative energy developments. Take the time to read the literature, attend one of the numerous informational meetings regarding these areas and then make your feelings known to those in charge of these efforts.

We all love the outdoors and we know the benefits that we receive each time we spend a few hours or days involved in those outdoor pastimes we enjoy so much. Unfortunately our state population is becoming much more urban and many of these city dwellers don't understand why we cherish our outdoor opportunities the way we do. The same can be said of our young people, those that are much more inclined to want to play a video game or text their friends rather than spending a day hunting, fishing or hiking. It's very important that we each do something to educate these individuals and share with them the reasons we value the outdoors. Take the time to invite a neighbor, a grandchild, niece or nephew the next time you go out to engage in one of your pastimes.

I could go on and on about the opportunities to make a difference or make a change in our lives or the lives of others but in closing I would encourage you to get involved, voice your opinions, join with others who share your values and vision and continue to enjoy our wonderful Arizona outdoors.

Letters to the Editor

Keep your communications short and to the point. All must be signed. If you send us questions, we will seek answers and print them here. There may be times mail volume may prevent us from publishing every letter we receive, but we will do our best to print as many as possible.

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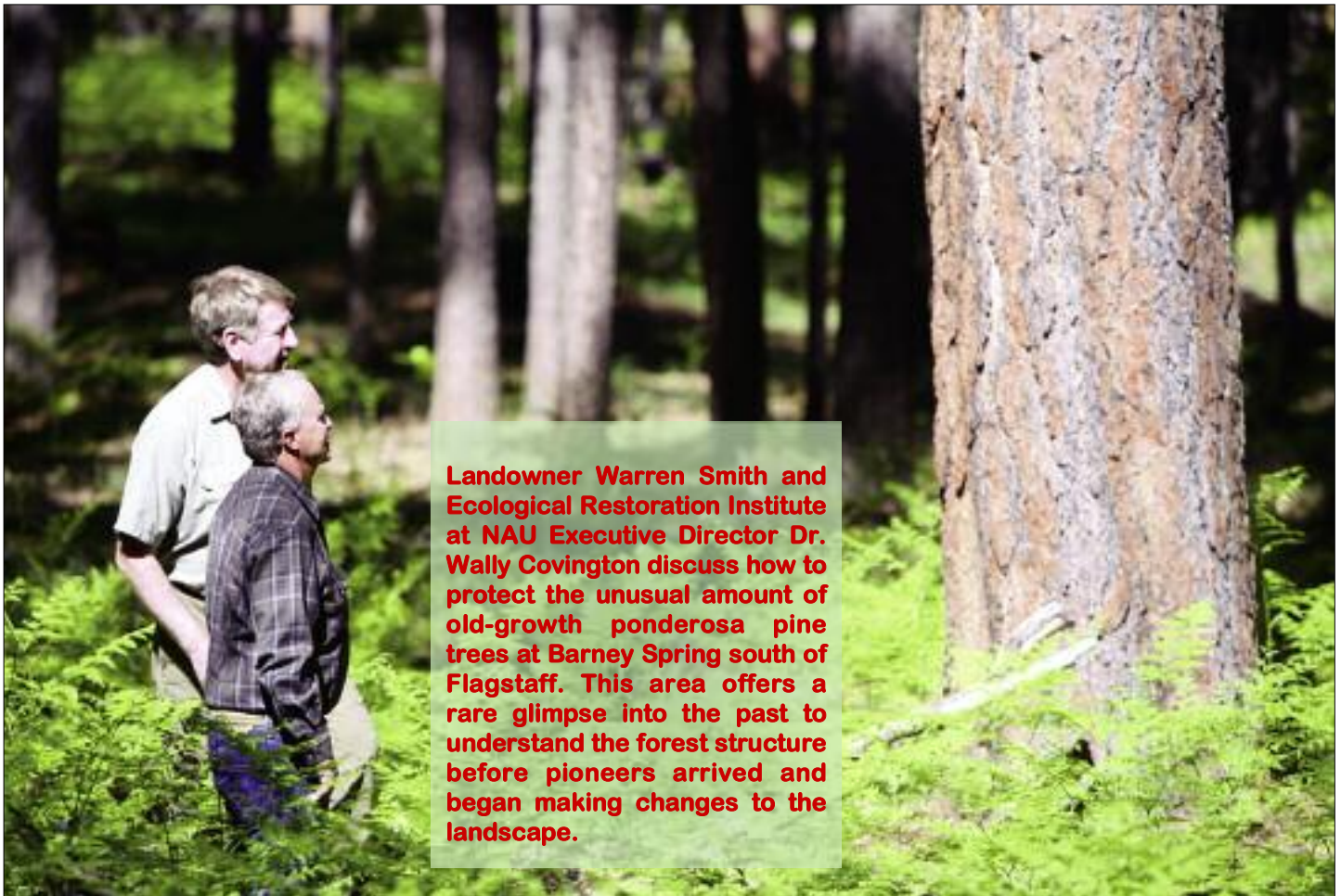
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Millions of Excess Trees Fuel Catastrophic Wildfires

By Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes

From the Fall 2011 Issue of Restoring the American West: Forest Eco-Issues E-Newsletter



Landowner Warren Smith and Ecological Restoration Institute at NAU Executive Director Dr. Wally Covington discuss how to protect the unusual amount of old-growth ponderosa pine trees at Barney Spring south of Flagstaff. This area offers a rare glimpse into the past to understand the forest structure before pioneers arrived and began making changes to the landscape.

FLAGSTAFF, AZ – As ecologists evaluate the damage from Arizona’s largest wildfire, forest ecologist Dr. Wally Covington says millions of small diameter trees that have grown in during the last century have lined up like sticks of firewood ready to fuel unnaturally intense, destructive wildfires like June’s Wallow Fire.

“Decades of scientific research reveal the frequent-fire ecosystems of the West are suffocating under too many trees. Where we once had 10 to 25 trees per acre, we now have hundreds,” said Covington, Regents’ professor of Forest Ecology and Executive Director of the Ecological Restoration Institute at Northern Arizona University .

The Pumpkin Fire that burned nearly 15,000 acres northwest of Flagstaff in 2000 had as many as 7,000 to 8,000 trees packed in on some of those acres.

“As a result of this unnatural forest structure, the forest cannot self-regulate, ecological processes are out of balance, and the heavy fuel load from too many trees is setting the stage for catastrophic wildfire.”

Covington says we now have extensive overly dense forests across vast landscapes in ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, and pinyon-juniper ecosystems. In the ponderosa pine forests, where fire once burned naturally along the forest floor every three to 12 years – killing excess tree seedlings, recycling nutrients and

cleaning up the dead and dying debris – it is now burning through the treetops.

“We’ve crossed a series of thresholds. Starting in the 1940s, we started seeing small crown fires. In the ‘60s, we saw bigger crown fires on a scale of a few thousand acres. By the 90s, we started seeing tens of thousands of acres in crown fires. Now, in this century, what we’re set up for are crown fires on a scale of hundreds of thousands of acres. This is clearly not sustainable.”

The 2002 Rodeo-Chediski Fire, Arizona’s second largest wildfire on record, burned nearly half a million acres in the White Mountains.

“If we have disturbances such as wildfires, massive bark beetle infestations and disease outbreaks that are on the scale of hundreds of thousands of acres, then we have to restore landscapes on the scale of hundreds of thousands of acres. That’s exactly where we’re headed with the Four Forest Restoration Initiative in northern Arizona and eight other landscape-scale restoration efforts across the West.”

The Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) is the nation’s largest forest ecological restoration project, spanning some 2.4 million acres across the Mogollon Rim.

Covington says some 180 million acres of ponderosa pine across the West are at risk, more than 300 million acres with the addition of degraded mixed conifer forests. “Especially with drought and climate change, there is an urgent need to restore forests to their most resilient condition. That requires protecting the old-growth trees and thinning most of the small-diameter trees.”

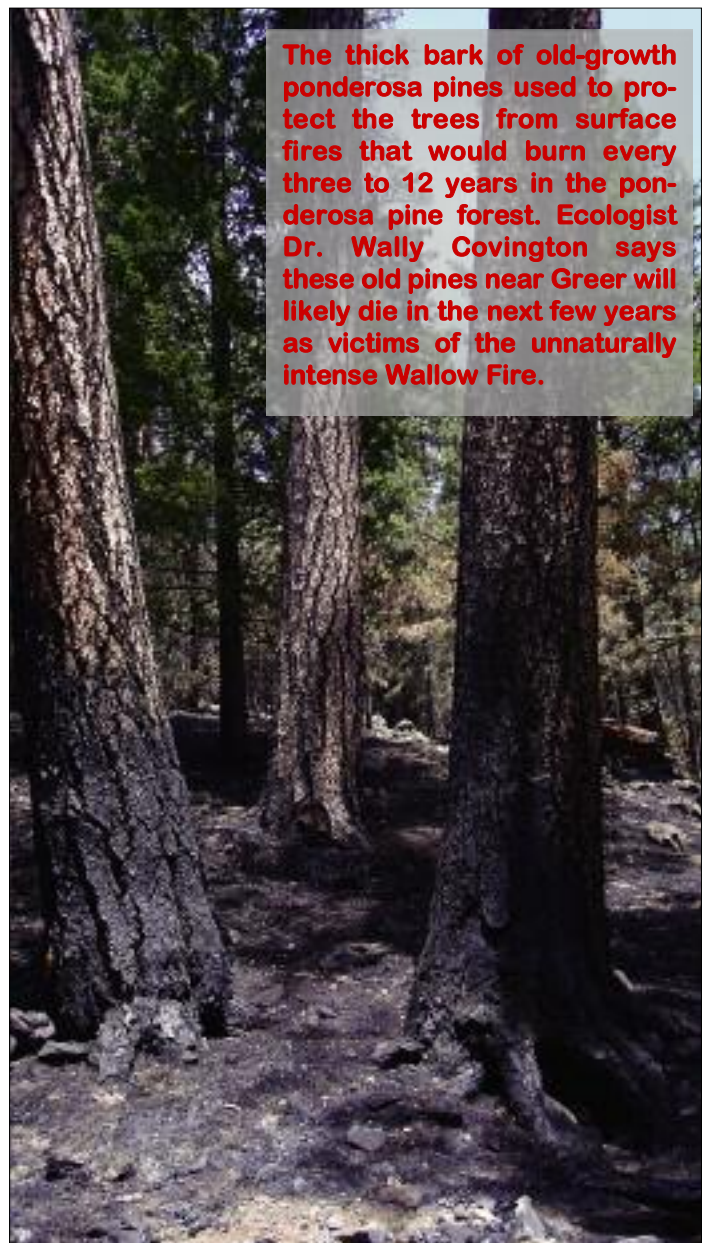
He says the abundance of small trees creates the opportunity for jobs and developing a restoration economy. “Without wood utilization, the cost of restoration can be as much as \$1,000 per acre. Businesses that can use the excess wood to make products such as oriented strand board, other engineered forest products and energy from biomass will be critical to restoring forest health. NAU has set the goal of using biomass to supply its electrical needs achieving carbon neutrality by the year 2020.”

Changes to the forest since pioneers arrived in the late 1800’s resulted from heavy grazing that removed grasses from the forest floor, an overabundance of ponderosa pine seedlings that became established in 1919 and the exclusion of natural fire as wildfires were extinguished as fast as possible.

“Fire is to the forest what wolves are to deer. If we remove an essential component of the ecosystem, there is going to be an upset in the balance. Like the deer population explosion that caused deer to far outstrip the carrying capacity of the land after wolves were eliminated, in the absence of frequent, low-intensity fires, the forest has become overloaded with small, sickly trees that are competing with old-growth pines and making our forests vulnerable to crown fire.”

Covington says collaborative efforts, such as the 4FRI that aim to accelerate large forest restoration efforts, will make the difference between forests that have become liabilities and forests that are assets.

“Our success in restoring forest health during the next two decades will determine whether we can leave landscape legacies for future generations.”



The thick bark of old-growth ponderosa pines used to protect the trees from surface fires that would burn every three to 12 years in the ponderosa pine forest. Ecologist Dr. Wally Covington says these old pines near Greer will likely die in the next few years as victims of the unnaturally intense Wallow Fire.



State Wildlife Grants Benefit Arizona's Wildlife

By Eric S. Gardner, Jeff A. Sorensen, Joyce M. Francis, James T. Driscoll, and Thomas R. Jones (AZGFD Nongame Branch)

with excerpts from the *Teaming With Wildlife* website and press release

The State of Arizona ranks among the highest for its biological diversity – third in the nation for the number of native bird species, second for reptiles, fifth for mammals, eighth for overall vertebrate diversity, and with more than 800 native wildlife species, the highest diversity of any inland state. To manage Arizona's fish and wildlife, the Arizona Game and Fish Department relies on funding from multiple sources: hunting and fishing license revenues, tax refund donations (Arizona Wildlife Fund), proceeds from Arizona Lottery sales (Arizona Heritage Fund), contributions from tribal gaming revenues (Wildlife Conservation Fund), partnership grants, trusts and donations, and federal assistance funding and contracts. Many sportsmen are familiar with the federal assistance programs enacted under the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson acts, more commonly known as Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration programs. Another, important federal assistance funding source for the Department is called the State Wildlife Grants program.

The State Wildlife Grants program provides annual appropriations to the state wildlife agencies for all wildlife conservation, and mandated the development of State Wildlife Action Plans (or SWAP) for each of the 56 States and Territories. Together, these strategies provided an essential foundation for the future of wildlife conservation and, perhaps more importantly, a stimulus to engage the states, federal agencies, and other conservation partners to think strategically about their individual and coordinated roles in prioritizing conservation efforts. Each individual state's strategy reflects a different set of issues, management needs, and priorities, however, each plan is required to address the same eight elements (see following insert) ensuring nationwide consistency and a common focus on targeting resources to prevent wildlife from declining to the point of endangerment and keeping common species common.

Arizona's SWAP is the result of many years of collaborative work completed by the Department, and multiple partners including federal, state, tribal, county, and municipality agencies, nongovernmental organizations, private land owners, and other stakeholder groups. All of these groups came together to develop a 10-year plan to ensure the future

of Arizona's wildlife.

State Wildlife Action Plans are a primary conservation tool for keeping fish and wildlife populations healthy, and off the federal list of threatened and endangered species. The plans are unique in that they were developed by the nation's top wildlife conservationists in collaboration with private citizens. Each plan identifies the species that are in greatest need of conservation, and the actions needed to conserve those species. State Wildlife Grants help the Department collect information on fish, wildlife, and their habitats, and implement both proactive conservation actions to preclude the need to list species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and actions to recover listed species. To date, the Department has received over \$16 million in funding for wildlife conservation as a result of this program.

Over the past year and a half, the Department has worked on revising Arizona's SWAP to provide the next 10-year vision for achievement, subject to adaptive management and improvement over time. The plan covers all the state's ecosystems, from low desert to alpine tundra. It identifies wildlife and habitats in need of conservation, insight regarding the stressors to those resources, and suggests actions that can be taken to alleviate those stressors. This new, revised plan not only provides opportunities for many partners to take leadership roles in implementing conservation actions, but it provides innovative web-based resources to encourage and enable those partnerships to succeed. Collaboration and synergy continue to be vital to shared success in Arizona wildlife conservation and management, and ongoing shared successes will be critical to continued Congressional support for the State Wildlife Grants Program.

Examples of State Wildlife Grant Projects in Arizona

State Wildlife Grants have supported the conservation of roundtail chub, a native sport fish and an ESA candidate species. Projects funded by State Wildlife Grants have helped expand roundtail chub distribution through stockings, established a captive broodstock, and established refuge populations. These actions help improve the status of the species in the Lower Colorado River Basin and may preclude the need to list this distinct population segment of the species under the ESA.

Chiricahua leopard frogs are federally listed as threatened. Partnerships with The Phoenix Zoo, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, private landowners, and others, have contributed significantly to our efforts to conserve and recover this frog. State Wildlife Grants continue to fund many projects implementing the Chiricahua Leopard Frog Recovery Plan, including successful habitat improvements, population monitoring programs, implementation of the Statewide Safe Harbor Agreement, invasive species eradication, outreach and technical training sessions, disease testing, genetic analyses, and captive propagation and release efforts. In the last year, Department biologists and many external partners marked a milestone in Chiricahua leopard frog recovery when the 10,000th frog reared by The Phoenix Zoo was released into the wild. Partnerships like these will enable ultimate conservation of this unusual member of Arizona's fauna, and its delicate and unique, aquatic habitats.

State Wildlife Grants have contributed significantly to the recovery and delisting of the bald eagle in Arizona. Using State Wildlife Grant funds, the Department conducted multiple

comprehensive data collection efforts, and continues to implement an adaptive management program aimed at increasing the bald eagle population in the state. These funds support the following six programs: Arizona Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program; Banding and Visual Identification Program; occupancy and reproductive assessment flights; organochlorine, heavy metal and parasite analysis; annual winter counts; and annual nest surveys. All of these efforts help keep tabs on health and status of the bald eagle population in Arizona.

Since publication of Arizona's first version of SWAP in 2005, the demand for data access and the need for decision making tools has grown. Even during the development of the plan, those involved knew that the plan would evolve to meet changing conditions in the state. There was a demand to make the data available to the public in real time. The original developers of the plan envisioned using Geographic Information System technology in a web-based system that would allow the public to access the data that had been used to inform the SWAP. With the current revision of the plan, the Department has developed a number of spatial products to accomplish that need. One example is the web-based HabiMap™ Arizona (<http://habimap.org/>), provides full access to the data. Everyone can use this tool to inform decisions which may impact 's diverse wildlife and habitats.

"The current SWAP revision will be the backbone to inform strategic planning at all levels within the Department, and make the data behind those planning efforts available to a much wider audience than ever before", said Larry Voyles, Arizona Game and Fish Department's Director. "The SWAP is more than just a planning document, it is a user's manual for one of the greatest collaborative conservation efforts ever completed in Arizona." Information about Arizona's SWAP can be found at http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/cwcs.shtml.

Ongoing Budget Concerns

According to the Government Accountability Office, once listed, the average cost of recovery of a single species can exceed \$125 million. The State Wildlife Grants Program, now in its 11th year, has served as a stable federal funding source for implementing congressionally required State Wildlife Action Plans in every state and territory. In fiscal year 2010, the program was funded at \$90 million of which \$72 million was apportioned to the states and territories (roughly ~\$1.2 million per state/territory). In fiscal year 2011, State Wildlife Grant program funding was reduced by 31%. Previous to this reduction, Arizona typically received ~\$1.5 million annually in State Wildlife Grants.

The principal barrier to implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plans is a lack of sustainable funding. In June 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations passed a budget for the Department of Interior that would have funded the State Wildlife Grants program at only \$22 million for 2012—fortunately that measure was never finalized. Drastic cuts such as that to the State Wildlife Grants program would shutdown ongoing projects the state wildlife agencies have implemented under State Wildlife Action Plans, and would undermine the nation's most cost-effective program for preventing wildlife from declining to the point of being listed under the ESA.

The proposed elimination of funding for the State Wildlife Grants program comes at a time when state fish and wildlife agencies are increasingly challenged to address the impacts of

invasive species, habitat loss and degradation, large-scale energy development and extraction efforts, and the effects of climate change on wildlife.

“These extreme cuts endanger wildlife and our way of life. State Wildlife Grants also protect jobs and local economies tied to the \$45 billion wildlife recreation industry [nationwide]. Hunters, hikers, campers, nature watchers, natural resource managers, anglers and all outdoors enthusiasts will lose out if State Wildlife Grants are stripped of funding”, said John Kostyack, Vice President, Wildlife Conservation for the National Wildlife Federation.

“Even in these difficult financial times when we all must shoulder some of the burden, we still need to ensure wildlife and vital habitats are conserved for the benefits they bring to Americans through cleaner and healthier environments and the legacy we leave for future generations,” said Michael Hutchins, Executive Director/CEO of The Wildlife Society. “Congressional funding for State Wildlife Grants also goes hand-in-hand with job creation and economic sustainability since more than half a million U.S. jobs center around wildlife conservation and wildlife-related recreation.”

The State Wildlife Grants program is supported by over 6,300 organizations and businesses that make up the National Teaming With Wildlife coalition. This coalition is considered one of the largest and most diverse conservation coalitions ever assembled. A complete list of the coalition’s members is available at www.teaming.com. The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to actively support the State Wildlife Grants program both on a local and national level.

How We Can Help

The Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF) as a member of the Teaming With Wildlife coalition continues to actively support the State Wildlife Grants program at both the local and national level. The AWF was an early Arizona supporter and dependable partner of the Teaming With Wildlife initiative in partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The AWF has continued to send representation from the Board every year to Washington DC to ask for State Wildlife Grant funding as part of the Teaming With Wildlife effort and to add definition to the species benefits that have occurred in Arizona.

If after reading this your asking “how can I assist this effort”, please visit www.azgfd.gov/signup and subscribe to Working for Wildlife a self-subscription newsletter that the Game and Fish Department established to keep the public apprised of efforts to secure and keep the funding needed to meet the challenge.

Photo: George Andrejko



Eight Required Elements of the SWAP

- (1) Information on “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” (SGCN),
- (2) Descriptions of habitats important for SGCN,
- (3) Identify threats to SGCN and their habitats,
- (4) Identify conservation actions for SGCN and their habitats,
- (5) Proposed monitoring and adaptive management,
- (6) Process to revise the plan within its 10-year timeframe,
- (7) Coordination with Federal, State, and local agencies and Indian tribes to develop and implement the plan, and
- (8) Broad public participation in developing and implementing the plan.

Photo: AZGFD



Westside Kaibab Mule Deer Project

An Overview

By Carl Lutch
Wildlife Program Manager AGFD-Flagstaff

The North Kaibab in north central Arizona supports one of the premier mule deer herds in North America. It has a long storied past with its boom and a bust cycle, taught in many if not all wildlife classes.

The Westside of the Kaibab supports roughly three quarters of the entire Kaibab deer herd in the winter and it has been dramatically altered by wildfires and spread of invasive plants in the last 15 years. In 1996, approximately 50,000 acres were burned in the Bridger-Knoll Fire and in 2006 the Slide Fire re-burned approximately 6,000 acres of the Bridger-Knoll Fire by Slide Tank. What is particularly bad about these fires is they burned a large part of the winter forage base that the Kaibab deer herd depend on to carry them through the winter. Important browse plants, such as sagebrush and cliffrose are not

fire-adapted and were removed or severely reduced over large areas. Many burned areas have been invaded by cheatgrass, an invasive, fire-adapted exotic which provides almost no benefit to wildlife, especially deer. Cheatgrass out-competes native plants by initiating growth earlier in the growing season, robbing moisture and nutrients. Cheatgrass can quickly develop into dense stands that dry in early spring while native plants are still growing and can support unnatural, repeated fires allowing cheatgrass to dominate and prevent re-establishment of native forage plants.

In response, the US Forest Service, Arizona Game and Fish Dept and Arizona Deer Association joined forces to take on cheatgrass and restore the Westside forage base, which consists primarily of Wyoming Big Sage Brush, Winterfat, Cliffrose and Four Wing

Saltbush. Since 2007, approximately 4,500 acres of juniper grinding has taken place on the Westside, both in previously untreated areas with a good native browse base and in 50-60 year old juniper "pushes" where young juniper trees were invading again. In both areas, junipers were ground down to decrease plant completion for these high value forage plants.

Additionally, another approximate 4,500 acres were treated with a combination herbicide and native plant seeding to decrease or limit cheatgrass and give native plants a chance to establish. To date over \$1.1 million dollars have been expended on NEPA preparation, archeological surveys, herbicide and seed purchase and project implementation. Also, to date all the practical areas to treat within the original NEPA document are complete. Research and monitoring by NAU-Rocky Mountain

Cheatgrass invasion following the Bridger-Knoll fire



Research Station and Grand Canyon Trust is underway to evaluate and measure successes and failures of the Westside Project. Unfortunately, seeded native browse plants can take up to 5 years to germinate and grow, so the jury is still out for some treated areas.

The response of the Kaibab deer to these changes is unknown – as their habitat preference and movements have not been monitored since the 1980's. Information on how deer are using this modified landscape is needed to assess the effectiveness of these recent habitat improvement projects and plan future efforts to conserve this world-class resource.

Missing information to make best management decisions for the Kaibab deer herd is best obtained by putting GPS collars on Kaibab deer and learning directly from the deer the what's, where's and why's.

Management needs that would be answered include:

1. Are the deer using treated Westside project areas and to what extent?
2. How do deer use different habitat treatments (seeding vs. grinding, herbicide and seeding together, etc.)?
3. Do deer concentrate on specific wintering areas or do they spread out evenly over the whole winter range?

4. What impact on the available winter forage are the deer having, if any (which would hint of the carrying capacity of the Westside)?

5. What are the timing and location of movements between summer, transition, and winter ranges?

6. How has fire changed historical patterns of deer movement and habitat use?

7. What are the mortality rates of the Kaibab deer (to calibrate population models)?

8. Are there new areas we can enhance to benefit Kaibab deer? We feel it is best to let the deer show managers where to improve rather than guessing where to improve next.

GPS collars collect several locations per day compared to old school collars and the information obtained from GPS collars is far superior. With the costs to manage deer and improve habitat for wildlife being very costly, managers would obtain the information needed to fine tune and improve management decisions for the benefit of the Kaibab mule deer herd through the use of GPS collars.

Arizona Game and Fish Department with the help of conservation partners like the Arizona Wildlife Federation, is planning to attach 25-30 store-on-board GPS collars on Westside mule deer in

the spring of 2012. After two years these collars will fall off automatically and the movement and survival data analyzed.

Deer location data will be combined with available GIS data layers for Unit 12A-W and analyzed using new spatial models developed in collaboration with the Northern Arizona University Center for Ecosystem Sciences. These models predict probability of habitat use as a function of environmental/management variables, e.g., plant community type, fire history, historical and recent habitat treatments, and water developments, while accounting for spatial autocorrelation inherent in high-frequency location data obtained from GPS collars. Also, survival information will be used along with herd composition, harvest and periodic population estimates to generate greater accuracy in population models for use in setting hunt recommendations and guidelines for proper management of the Kaibab deer herd.

Fully understanding the dynamics of the Kaibab deer herd will allow the department to fill in gaps of important information to aid in the proper management of this premier deer herd. Additionally, the data would be used to determine the effectiveness of past habitat improvement projects and determine future habitat improvement project areas.

Desirable conditions on the Westside winter range



Instructor Profile:

Colleen Miniuk-Sperry

By Ryna Rock

Photo: Jen Raffaelli



After going out of office as Arizona Wildlife Federation President, I made an assumption that suddenly I'd have a lot of free time on my hands—WRONG—but one activity I do make time for is to function as a volunteer “go-for” at AWF’s Winter Becoming An Outdoors Woman Deluxe Workshop. Being a step up from the traditional BOW Workshops in accommodations at the famous Saguaro Lake Ranch, and a much smaller, more intimate group, I enjoy interacting with the women who attend and the chores we volunteers perform to make the whole event run smoothly. The AWF’s longtime Chief BOW Coordinator, Linda Dightman, with the help of AWF Office Manager, Kim Kreuzer, consistently does a superb job planning and operating the Workshop and a fun time is had by all. How could one not enjoy spending time in the outdoors at the foot of the beautiful Bulldog Cliffs and along the banks of the serenely wandering Salt River.

One familiar face I see at many of the Winter BOW Deluxe Workshops is that of Colleen Miniuk-Sperry. For those of you who don’t know this, Colleen is a world-class, well-known photographer who resides right here in “oh so photogenic” Arizona. The first afternoon of a Workshop I frequently catch sight of a long-legged, attractive, “outdoorsy” looking woman gathering a flock of BOW attendees into formation for the ritual of taking the Workshop group photograph – proof these ladies can take back home that they really did get out in the wilds of Arizona for a few days. Believe me, at the end of the workshop most of these attendees are really proud of themselves for the things they have learned and accomplished, things they will enjoy and skills they can use for years to come. Colleen follows through by getting some good shots of the ladies attending classes and the gorgeous surroundings we are in the midst of throughout the Workshop that we can use for PR and for everyone’s enjoyment on the BOW website and Facebook Page. All of this Colleen does with an amiability and charm that instantly puts those she is working with at ease, while still keeping that photographer’s eye that has and is serving her so well with her talent and chosen profession.

By this time you have figured out I am writing this article not talk about the BOW Program, as fabulous as it is, but to focus on Colleen because the AWF and the BOW Program felt it was time to recognize her for the great photography work she has done for us over the years at the BOW Workshops, much of it on a volunteer basis. She also serves as an instructor for photography classes within the BOW Workshops, inspiring the dozens of women who have taken her classes to view the outdoor world in a new way and to express that through photography.

Armed with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Michigan, Colleen Miniuk-Sperry moved to Phoenix to begin a 10-year project management career at Intel Corporation. Initially as an outlet to corporate life, she began making photographs of the Western United States landscapes in late 2001. In another two years she began selling her photographs at art shows across Arizona. She left Intel in early 2007 to pursue a full-time career in photography. Now a self-described “corporate American escapee” turned outdoor photographer, writer, and instructor/speaker, Colleen specializes in outdoor recreation, nature, conservation, and travel topics aimed at helping people get outside and actively experiencing the wonders of our world.

On the more serious side of her chosen profession, Colleen supports a wide range of assignments for editorial and commercial clients. Her work has been published in the Arizona Highways, Pop Photo, Golf Illustrated, Lighthouse Digest, Vancouver View, Atlanta Golf, North Valley Magazine, Sonora Es, Smith-Southwestern calendars, and a broad

variety of other publications. Her stock photography is represented by Viesti Associates and Alamy. She has garnered many awards over the years, too many for me to list, and all of which have led to her being the respected and sought after photographer and writer she is today. She graciously allowed us to use her image for the cover of this edition.

Besides the great work she does for the AWF and the BOW Program, Colleen enjoys leading photography workshops for the Arizona Highways Photography Workshops, Through Each Others Eyes, SunDust Gallery, and numerous private workshops, where she has become known for her inquisitive storytelling approach, instruction intensive style, and enthusiasm for exploration. She is also an active Associate of Through Each Others Eyes, where she has participated in 2 cultural photographic exchanges (Japan & Mexico), and is also a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America.

In the last several months, Colleen has begun working with the AWF and Assistant BOW Coordinator Kathy Greene's own venture of Beyond BOW Workshops offered through Arizona Outdoor Women, an AWF and BOW Program endorsed private venture aimed at providing BOW alumni with adventures that are a step above the basic skills level in the out of doors that they are provided with through the BOW Workshops.

It boggles my mind to contemplate how Colleen fits in her volunteer work between the many photography adventure opportunities she undertakes each year, the results of which I enjoyed perusing on her website, www.CMS-Photo.com.

Information on a variety of workshops is available there along with many tips for photographers at every skill level. It makes it all the more special that she takes the time to work with us when it is very obvious she is working hard, and loving it. She will be present for the upcoming Deluxe BOW Workshop, January 27, 2012 to instruct the Outdoor Photography class, and I'll bet I see her gathering a new "flock" of attendees for the BOW group photo, working her magic on both the anxious "newbie" and the "repeat attender", getting smiles from all.

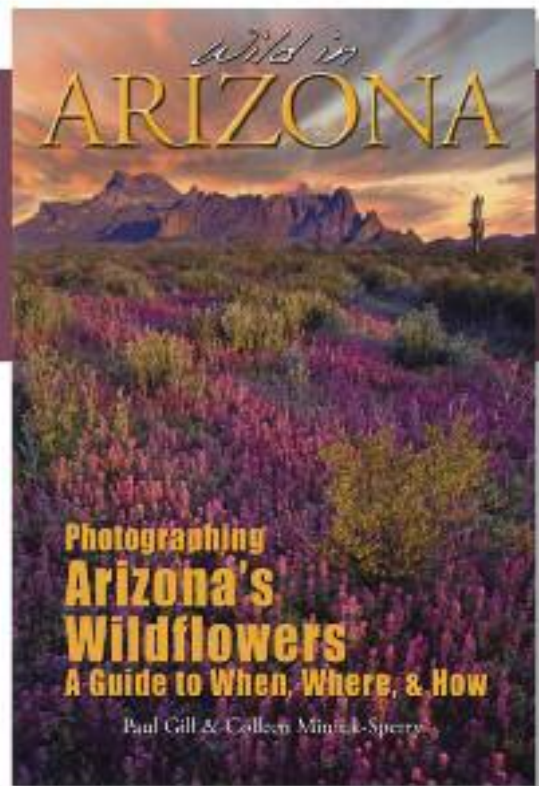
Her most recent and very major project has been the planning, development, and production of a new book, co-authored by Colleen Miniuk-Sperry and Paul Gill. *Wild in Arizona* : photographing Arizona's Wildflowers. The book has now been published and is on sale in a variety of locations and online at www.WildInArizona.com/order.html, where you can purchase an autographed copy. This beautiful book is loaded with photographs taken at 60 locations across Arizona . It is an excellent reference guide on photographic techniques and not only finding Arizona 's magnificent wildflowers but knowing the ideal times to photograph them.

Congratulations, Colleen, on the publication of your book, which is going to give great enjoyment and encouragement to so many people. And, thank you, Colleen, for all the time, energy, and joyful spirit you have given to the Becoming An Outdoors Woman Program and the Arizona Wildlife Federation.

Colleen currently resides in Chandler, Arizona with her husband, Craig and cat, Nolan.

The 2011 Spring BOW Outdoor Photography Class





Wild in Arizona: Photographing Arizona's Wildflowers A Guide to When, Where, and How

by
Paul Gill & Colleen Miniuk-Sperry

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Imagine finding Arizona's magnificent wildflowers, knowing the best time to photograph, and learning the best photography techniques all in one complete reference guide! This informative book helps you know:

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Paul Gill

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- Peter Ensenberger,

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Colleen Miniuk-Sperry

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BOW DELUXE

The Deluxe will be held January 27-29, 2012. The cost is \$375 which includes instruction, program materials, use of equipment, deluxe lodging and meals Friday evening through Sunday noon. Lodging at Saguaro Lake Ranch is comfortable resort style ranchettes.

Deluxe Classes offered in 2012 include Fishing, Edible & Medicinal Plants, Outdoor Photography, Dutch Oven Cooking, Predator Calling, Trick Track Trail, Boating 101 & 102, Hiking, Archery, Javelina Hunting, Desert Survival, Geocaching, Birding, Paddling and an optional Trail Ride.

Want to help at BOW? We are always looking for folks to help bring stuff to camp and drive the shooting class to the range.

Contact Kim at: 480-644-0077



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The AWF retains the right to determine appropriateness of ad content consistent with our Mission Statement and stated resolutions. AWN Editor and the Executive Committee of AWF will determine final acceptance but will not discriminate as stated by existing laws.

Commissioner's Awards

The Arizona Wildlife Federation has been awarded the Arizona Game and Fish Commission's Media of the Year Award for our publication, Arizona Wildlife News, as well as Tom Mackin, AWF President, being awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award and will accept those awards at the annual Arizona Game and Fish Commission Awards Banquet set for Saturday, January 14, 2012, at the Carefree Resort & Conference Center in Carefree. The Arizona Game and Fish Commission selected the 2011 Commission Award recipients at its October 14, 2011 meeting.

The purpose of these awards is to recognize Arizonans who have contributed significantly to the conservation of the state's wildlife, its outdoor heritage, and the mission of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Prior to this, in 1992, AWF Life Member and officer Jerome Pratt received the Environmentalist of the Year Award; in 2007 AWF BOW Coordinator, Linda Dightmon, received the Outdoor Woman of the Year Award; and in 2009 the AWF was recognized by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission with their Award of Excellence.

The nomination write-up for AWN went as follows: "Arizona Wildlife News (AWN) is the official publication of the Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF). In its fifty-third year of publication, this magazine offers readers a wide array of information and articles to its readers. The Arizona Wildlife Federation has a volunteer editorial committee led by Larry Audsley, Executive Editor, that solicits articles from members, officers, wildlife conservation organizations, and agencies to provide accurate and timely information. Aimed primarily at AWF membership, AWN is also distributed to many industry and legislative leaders free of charge. This publication is well edited, well written, and very relevant. In a recent issue, topics addressed included Sonoran Desert Heritage Conservation Proposal within Maricopa County, horse and burro summits and updates, USFS travel management, the importance of the Heritage Fund, solar energy influences, updates on Becoming an Outdoor Woman, a book review on endangered species, and recommendations on camp cooking. While always an informative publication, it was almost eliminated after 2000 when AWF's revenues and expenses dictated radical changes. John Underwood, along with Linda Dightmon, Kim Kreuzer, and Ryna Rock with sup-

port from the Executive Committee, took a hard look at publication costs, quality, and options. In the last few years, the publication has improved and included color, while at the same time reducing costs and increasing revenue. The focused approach not only provides a quality product, but the content has improved as well. AWF routinely provides information to its many readers that is supportive of Department and Commission activities. With a circulation of about 2,000 individuals, this information is well disseminated. In addition, AWN is posted as a PDF file on the AWF website where others can read or download at their leisure."

A more deserving individual could not be found to receive the Commission's Volunteer of the Year Award than Tom Mackin and we are happy to relate a portion of his conservationist efforts here. Tom has served for some years and continues to serve the Arizona Game & Fish Dept. on the Flagstaff/Williams Habitat Partnership Committee and in State HPC meetings. As part of his duties with the HPC, he has written and been awarded several HPC grants primarily for the funding of maintenance for the Pat Springs pipeline and redevelopment of several wildlife waters around the Flagstaff area. The pipeline provides water to countless numbers of wildlife of every species. He and his family are the main custodians of this pipeline and they alone spend about 350 hours annually working on it and have been doing this for over 15 years.

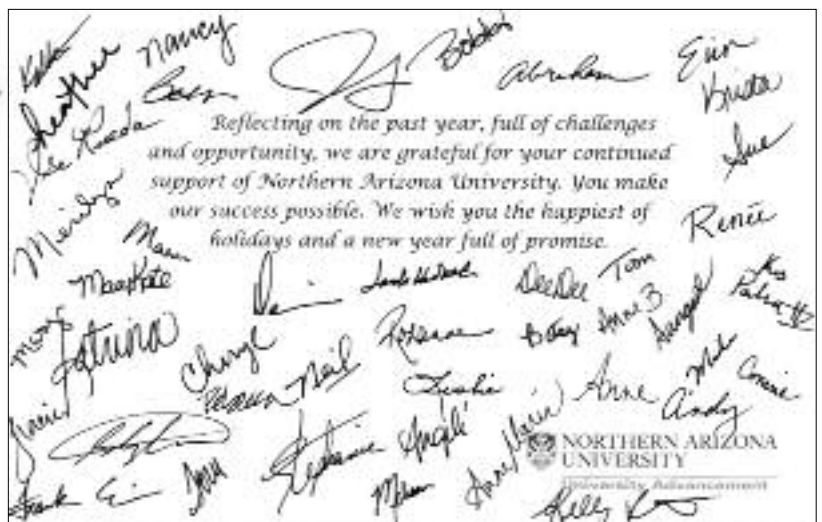
As part of these efforts Tom has developed strong collaborative partnerships with the Arizona Game and Fish Dept., Coconino National Forest and Babbitt Ranches. Through these partnerships he has been responsible for initiating and maintaining the volunteer agreements that relate to the work done over the last 20 years on wildlife waters in the Flagstaff area. When the AWF was successful in obtaining grants from the National Forest Foundation and the Arizona Game & Fish Dept., much of that success was based on Tom's abilities as a grant writer and administrator on the multi-year Anderson Mesa Wetlands Restoration Project. In 2008, Tom was inducted into Arizona's Outdoor Hall of Fame in recognition of his invaluable commitment and service to the wildlife and habitat of Arizona, mostly related to his exceptional and comprehensive wildlife waters work. Tom is currently serving in his second year as President of the AWF.

Letters



Kim

Living in Tucson, especially enjoyed the Fall issue about grasslands. We traveled to Mongolia this summer to see some wide open spaces...there are millions of animals there, most domestic, and they do it without fences....admittedly, there is virtually no auto traffic...maybe the ranchers could learn something from the Mongolians about co-existing without fences. MM



2010 Trophy Book Awards

Since its beginning in 1970, Arizona Wildlife Trophies has been a means to recognize the unique, individual quality of big game animals in the state of Arizona. The Arizona Wildlife Federation has been publishing the Arizona Trophy Book for 41 years to recognize and honor the remarkable Big Game wildlife of Arizona.

Each year the Annual Competition includes the following species: pronghorn, typical Coues deer, non-typical Coues deer, typical mule deer, non-typical mule deer, typical elk, non-typical elk, desert bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, bison, javelina, black bear, and cougar. (The jaguar was put on the protected species list in 1968, and Arizona was included in the area in which jaguars are protected under the Endangered Species Act in 1997).

In 1950 the Boone & Crockett Club devised a system of rating trophies according to overall quality. Since that time, its official scoring system has become the internationally recognized system for ranking North American big game and is the one used in Arizona Wildlife Trophies for listing all trophies except javelina. No system existed for scoring javelina when the first edition of Arizona Wildlife Trophies was being developed. Several alternatives were considered, and the Committee finally decided to use a skull measurement similar to that used by Boone & Crockett for bears and cats, with the exception that teeth were not to be considered part of the skull when measuring length, because javelina are prone to dental malformations which affect scores unjustly. Even though some large javelina have small heads and vice-versa, the skull measurement is still the most accurate and fair way to judge this animal.

Annual awards include the **Bronze** and the **Honorable Mention**.

Beginning with the 1990 edition of Arizona Wildlife Trophies, it was deemed appropriate to recognize dedicated trophy hunters. Four unique awards were established to reward and encourage those hunters who had consciously chosen to kill less often in a genuine effort to harvest older, more mature and, hopefully, past-prime animals.

To receive the **Arizona Trophy Antlers** award the hunter must take four different Arizona animals from the following six categories: typical Coues deer, non-typical Coues deer, typical mule deer, non-typical mule deer, typical elk, and non-typical elk. The entries must consist of at least one Coues deer, one mule deer, and one elk. Two entries must meet the minimum score of Arizona Wildlife Trophies, and the other two must meet the 90% minimum score.

The **Arizona Trophy Heads & Horns** consists of taking four different Arizona animals from the following categories: pronghorn, desert bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, bison, javelina, bear, and cougar. At least one entry must be scored by skull measurement and one by horn measurement. Two entries must meet the minimum score of Arizona Wildlife Trophies, and the other two must meet the 90% minimum score.

The **Arizona Trophy Hunter** is awarded for taking ten of the possible 13 different trophy categories recognized by Arizona Wildlife Trophies. Four of the ten must meet the

minimum score of Arizona Wildlife Trophies, and the other six must meet the 90% minimum score.

The **Arizona Big Game award** consists of taking each species of Arizona big game (except Buffalo) without the aid of guides, dogs, or electronic devices. All animals must be adult, and one must meet the minimum requirements for Arizona Wildlife Trophies. Originally sponsored by the Arizona Varmint Callers Association, the Arizona Big Game Award laid dormant for 20 years. Between 1964 and 1974, 14 Arizona hunters received the Arizona Big Game Award. They were required to legally harvest nine different species of Arizona big game animals without the aid of professional guides or the use of dogs. Because there were nine animals involved, the award was popularly known as "The Big Nine." In the mid-1970's the Arizona Varmint Callers Association ceased to exist and the award was left in limbo until it was revived in the 1990 edition of Arizona Wildlife Trophies. The requirements for the award are exactly the same as the original, with the exception that now at least one of the nine animals must meet the minimum entry score of Arizona Wildlife Trophies.

The Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF) and the AWF Trophy Book Committee congratulates the following recipients of the 2010 trophy book awards:

Bronze Awards

Typical Coues Deer	Michael L Benham	119 2/8
Non-typical Coues Deer	Dale Gonzales	123 6/8
Typical Mule Deer	John Woodruff	201 2/8
Non-typical Mule Deer	Dave Miller Jr	232 4/8
Typical Elk	Randy Ulmer	392 4/8
Non-typical Elk	James P Melody Jr	410 5/8
Desert Bighorn Sheep	Dr Serge W Wright	188 7/8
Rocky Mt. Bighorn Sheep	Dennis M Jacob	185 3/8
Javelina	Larry Brinker	14 12/16
Black Bear	William T Duke	20 15/16
Cougar	Mark Smith	14 8/16

Honorable Mention Awards

Pronghorn	Bill Jordan	84 2/8
Typical Coues Deer	Randy Liljenquist	117 5/8
Typical Mule Deer	Duane L Shroufe	196 3/8
Typical Elk	Mike Crimmins	378 7/8
Desert Bighorn Sheep	Ruth Lindley	176
	Robert Childers	175 6/8
Rocky Mt. Bighorn Sheep	Tom Friddle	180 2/8
Javelina	Van D Madding	14 9/16
	Roger Cook Jr	14 5/16
Black Bear	Jim Machac	20 14/16

Special Awards

Arizona Trophy Antlers	Dave Miller Jr
Arizona Trophy Heads & Horns	James Kavanaugh
	Roger Cook Jr
Arizona Trophy Hunter	Dave Miller Jr



Historical Tales

Reproduced by Ryna Rock from Arizona Wildlife Magazine, August 1945

Memories of the Arizona Game Country As I Knew It

By by C.E. Gilham, Chief of Sportsmen Information Department, Western Winchester, Olin Industries, Inc.

I little expected 22 years ago that I would ever pen an article with this title. It seems but a short time back that I climbed the rough rocky grade at Rice. Periodicallly I stopped the \$90.00 second-hand Ford that I had purchased in Phoenix, to dump canteens of water into the boiling radiator. It was my first assignment as a Government predatory animal hunter. Black River was to be my camp site.

The car wheezed at last to the top of the grade, and in a few minutes I stopped in front of the Horse Camp of the Cross S Ranch. The sun was down and I had made the run from Phoenix over the Apache Trail, Fish Creek Hill and all, in 12 hours! I stopped with George England for the night. Rusty and Rattler, his dogs, sniffed me with suspicion. This spot gave two great characters of Arizona their start-Ross Santee, and Swede Larsen.

At dawn I was off again. A flock of giant turkeys crossed the trail ahead of me. Near the old saw mill I saw three deer. Shortly after I descended into Black River, the road was a series of ledges, and I used the brake, low, and finally reverse to hold the jalopie back. I hit the bottom without a band left in the thing and spent three days under a juniper tree installing new ones. As a matter of interest I did not see a car along this road in 10 days time. Few of them ever tried it.

It was April, and the flats above camp were actually working with wild turkeys. The first patch of green stuff (filaree) in the White Mountains

attracted these birds for miles. At daybreak the gobbling of the males was a bedlam, as they pulled snouts and strutted before the admiring hens. Deer were most numerous, even though it was on an Indian Reservation, and bear and mountain lions gave the hounds plenty to do. A few elk were up on top, but there was no open season in those days. Coyotes filled the night with their wailing, and ever so often the lobo moaned on the ridges.

Tom Wanslee had his ranch headquarters on White River, just before one crossed the bridge on the trail that went into Ft. Apache. I rode in horseback one time to a dance, there was one single gal and a few married ones. While there, we bought some bacon that had been left in the commissary since soldiers occupied the fort. it was dark yellow, hard as flint, and in a pot of frijoles it took more cooking than the three-year-old beans.

Three months here and I moved to trap coyotes in the Flagstaff country. Here I met Everett Mercer, Ed Babbitt and Lefty Lewis. I camped near Grand Canyon and caught a wolf there. Antelope were in droves along the Catarrack Canyon into the Seligman country. South of Flagstaff on Anderson Mesa, there were pronghorns galore, and the yellow perch in the lakes were fat, big, and most numerous.

South of Flagstaff, at Fernow Ranger Station, I camped with Dave and Stanley Joy, the fireguards. I caught a wolf there, and accidentally snagged a brown bear, as big as a

steer, in a wolf trap. Bill Castro joined me later, and we worked the country together. This was a virgin yellow pine forest. Logging operations had not marred it. The DK's ran cattle in the rough breaks along Sycamore Canyon, and the black-tail deer were as numerous and seemed almost as large as the range stock. Wild turkeys haunted the heads of the canyons in droves. I once shot one with my .30 and saw something flopping beyond the bird I had hit. I had made a double, killing two with the one shot.

Band-tailed pigeons were to be found in flocks in the huge oaks under the rim. No one ever shot them, and they were present in the thousands. To get into the trout one needed slip off into Oak Creek Canyon, or into Clear Creek on the other side. They were there, and not all small fry by any means. The Mesa Lakes in the fall of the year were something to never be forgotten. Antelope skurried in the crisp air, and the San Francisco Peaks to the north made a background as beautiful as anything in the Canadian Rockies. A few cool nights, and a stone blind built on the shores of Ashurst Lake or some of the others, brought results. It was here I killed my first canvasback ducks. Large, fat northern fellows, and could they take the shot.

Winter found me on the desert, following the sheep bands and trapping bobcats and coyotes. I did have the good fortune to find a new game paradise that I had never dreamed existed. In the low desert hills along the Colorado River and to

the Mexican border, were some of the finest bighorn sheep in America. Black-tail deer were found in the cat-claw and mesquites browsing on the open flats in the early morning. In this little inhabited land it was common to see one lying out in the open beneath a mesquite, quite as a cow might rest and survey her surroundings.

The desert tanks afforded watering places for all types of wildlife. The blue quail around these waterholes were so thick, that often the whole terrain around them was literally moving with the pretty top-knotted fellows. I think Swede Larsen took a photograph at such a pond, and had something in excess of 3,000 quail in the one picture.

Down behind the Eagle Tail Mountains, and on the desert from Florence into the Catalinas, the javalinas ate cacti pears and seemed to be endless in numbers. Bighorns were in the Catalinas and mountain lions and white-tailed deer furnished thrills and meat a plenty.

A pack of wolves hit the Chiricahua country just north of the Mexican border. They were big light-colored fellows fresh out of the high country of Old Mexico. White-tailed deer here too were nearly always in evidence, and the tiny Sonora, or fan-tailed deer used this as their range.

Near Florence, at Picacho, was a duck shooting spot as good as anyone could wish. here I once hunted with Judge Faires and Bill Heger and bagged birds most uncommon to most parts of the USA. Outstanding were the Cinnamonteal, but there were Wigeions, Mallards, Gadwalls, Pin-tails, Blue-winged Teal, Green-Winged Teal, Canvasbacks, and many more species.

It was about this time that Frank Colcord ran across a jaguar on the Mexican border. The Lee Boys near Paradise, Clive Miller out of Clifton, and Goswick, Gene Holder, Albert Jones, and a dozen more were lion hunters and convinced that there was game in "them thar" hills in those days. I often wonder if it is still there.

I have touched only the high spots. I could write of the Camp Woods country, the Graham Mountains, the Tonto, the Blue Range, and the North Rim.

Few can realize the blessings in the wildlife line in such a state as Arizona. To do so one needs live in the settled areas east of the Mississippi River, or cover the stretches of the Canadian Arctic where, though virgin territory, the frigid climate and poor soil supports but little wildlife.

The desert is a mystery. Why so many species of game, song birds, reptiles and rodents frequent it, is something I have never been able to understand. But the wildlife is there, and more numerous than a casual glance indicates.

It was during these days that I saw the Arizona Game Protective Association struggle for a foothold. It was one of the first states to step forward in such noteworthy enterprise. I remember the midnight rides we took - to install a new chapter, whip out some politician, or carry the gospel into a heathen land. So I wonder - what is left. Has it worked? I hear of a great increase now in the population of Arizona. I suppose it is the inevitable thing to happen, but I hate to see such a thing occur in such a great game state.

Our mission is really to conserve what we have, and more important, to restore some of the things we have lost. It is a problem of education, and there is no short-cut to that. If the desire is not in the people to do worth-while things with wildlife, then it will never be done, or worse, it may be too late to do much that is needed.

Wildlife is but one of the few natural resources we must care for. It is really a bi-product of proper land use. If we handle the crust of this earth with intelligence, we may always have a fair representation of our wild creatures, and can hunt and utilize a certain portion of them. Also, it is not a state proposition. It is National in scope, and the unity of all is necessary to put it across.

Wars are not fought simply because some screw-ball thinks he can whip the world. They are fought in order to have soil - and an existence for a population that did not take care of their own soil when they had it.

We dig for the Hanging Gardens of Babylon in the sands at the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Erosion took over this most fertile

botanical spot. The Egyptians dip buckets of water from the Nile to irrigate a few patches of food-crops, where once the valley was so fertile that it supported the thousands of people necessary to build the Pyramids. The Roman Empire fell because of poor land practices by the Caesars. So it goes. Hitler and Hirohito had the world conquest idea. They almost got away with a war of exploitation to grab someone else's resources that they badly needed.

Will we take care of our own National resource assets? If we do, the USA will forever be a ranking power in the World Family of Nations. If we do not, we will be a second rate power and sink to the levels of serfdom and despondency. Our game, fish, forests, and the very food we eat, are dependent upon our wise management of the soil. Without proper recognition of this basic thing, and strong action in doing something about it, we are a dead duck.

WHADDA' YA' KNOW?

1. Name the 5 Global IBAs in Arizona (Important Bird Areas).
2. What is the Black-Footed Ferret's main preferred food source?
3. What other element involving prairie dogs is vital to the Black-Footed Ferret?
4. What is the smallest member of the Canidae (dog) family in North America?
5. What important item is necessary for an OHV designed for off-highway use that weighs 1,800 pounds or less?
6. What do OHV Decal funds do?

(Answers on Page 20)

Camp Cook

Oven size	Number of briquettes	
	Top	Bottom
10-inch	10 to 12	8 to 10
12-inch	12 to 14	10 to 12
14-inch	14 to 16	12 to 14
16-inch	16 to 18	14 to 16



By Ryna Rock



Hungry Man Breakfast

1 lb bacon	10-12 medium potatoes
2 medium onions, diced	Salt and pepper to taste
2 cans mushrooms, drained	12 eggs, beaten
1 green pepper, diced	2 c. grated cheddar cheese
3 cloves garlic, minced (optional)	Salsa or barbecue sauce

Heat 12-inch Dutch oven until hot, using 18-20 briquettes on the bottom.

Cut bacon into 1-inch slices and fry till brown. Add onions, mushrooms, green pepper, garlic and saute until onions are translucent.

Add potatoes and season with salt and pepper.

Cover and bake using 8 briquettes on the bottom and 14-16 on top for 30 minutes.

Season eggs with salt and pepper then pour over top of potatoes.

Cover and bake another 20 minutes. Stir every 5 minutes. When eggs are done, cover top with cheese and replace lid.

Let stand until cheese is melted. Serves 10-12.

Can use salsa or barbecue sauce on top.

Breakfast Memories

Sausage

5-6 potatoes, cubed
1/2 small onion, chopped
1/4 c green pepper, chopped
6-7 eggs
Milk (optional)
1/2 c American or cheddar cheese

Gravy

2 Tbsp flour
Salt and pepper
1 glass milk

Sausage

Cook sausage in a skillet. Remove sausage and add potatoes to skillet with grease from sausage (add shortening if needed to keep potatoes from sticking).

Add onion and green pepper. Cook until potatoes are tender. Add eggs and crumbled sausage.

Can add a little milk to eggs to make them fluffy. Add cheese. Cook until eggs are done.

Gravy

Mix flour with salt and pepper in with just enough grease to coat the bottom of the skillet. Brown to desired doneness and add about a glass of milk. If not enough, add water until your skillet is about 3/4 full. Stir constantly until gravy starts to thicken.

Remove from heat and stir until desired consistency is obtained.

Note: Garlic can be added to the potatoes as they are cooking, just enough to taste, and this works in two ways; adds a good flavor and helps keep the insects away.

WHADDA' YA' KNOW?

Answers

1. Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge; Anderson Mesa; Chiricahua Mountains; Lower San Pedro River; Marble Canyon
2. Prairie dogs
3. Prairie dog burrows are used by the ferrets for shelter and to raise their young.
4. Kit foxes weigh in at 3-6 pounds.
5. An OHV Decal on your OHV's license plate.
6. They provide for better OHV management and protection of natural resources while helping maintain access.

(From Page 19)



Streams and Game Trails

By John Underwood



So Long to a Great Company

Wittman Lures in Tucson, the makers of Z-rays, has gone out of business after 60 years. For a glimpse of some great photo memories over time, visit their website at <http://www.zray.com/>. They have been a good friend to the Arizona Game and Fish Department over the decades and have always been a personal favorite of mine. I started using Z-Rays back in 1967. I was living in Colorado at the time and was catching so many Rainbows on silver with red dots Z-ray that every one thought I had a magic lure. Guess I did.

Here We Go Again

Boaters Oppose Ethanol Increase

(From the Outdoor Wire)

The Environmental Protection Agency has gone ahead with allowing fuel companies to increase the amount of ethanol found in their gasoline from ten to fifteen percent. While this might not sound like a big deal, ethanol increases the acidity of fuel. If you're the owner of an older boat and motor - and that covers most of us - you may find this new fuel can cause problems.

Problems that can range from dissolving older fuel lines to eating away the insides of gas tanks, causing clogging and other serious damage to engines. Those engines can be anywhere from the putt-putt unit on your favorite sailboat to your lawnmower. For nearly two years, we've periodically written about the potential for problems this new E-85 fuel can pose for boaters, but we were surprised to learn that a Southwick and Associates/AnglerSurvey.com found that a majority of respondents (55.9 percent) weren't even aware of the increase in ethanol levels.

Despite that widespread awareness, nearly sixty percent disagreed with the decision - and nearly the same number said they felt the levels should be rolled back to ten percent. It's not likely to happen, but political happenings in the past few months might make legislators and bureaucrats a bit more attentive if there were widespread complaints at the new ethanol levels.

Unlike gasoline with no ethanol, gasoline with ethanol, even in the ten percent volume, absorbs moisture. E-10 gasoline, according to research from BoatUS, can hold up to one half of one percent of water by volume. Those water molecules dissolve in the fuel. This "solubilized water" will bypass the water separator and burn through the engine. The danger for engines happens if there is a phase-separation of the fuel. In essence, you get a water/ethanol mixture on the bottom of

the fuel tank, and a reduced-octane gasoline at the top of the tank. Either of those will damage your engine.

There's really no way of knowing what the E-15 mixture will ultimately do in engines. Here are some tips for dealing with ethanol, courtesy of BoatUS

- Be ready to change fuel filters more often

- Make sure all your hoses are marked **J-1527**. Not all hoses are ethanol-compatible.

- Confirm that your boat's fuel tank will handle the newer ethanol. If not, you may need to replace the tank with another material like aluminum.

- If you're leaving your boat sitting for any length of time, fill your boat's tanks to 95% of capacity. That allows room for your fuel to breathe, while limiting the space for potential condensation.

- Use fuel stabilizer, although it does not prevent phase separation.

From a Reader in Southern Arizona

From November through February, I spend a lot of time and miles roaming the southern Arizona National Forests in pursuit of quail. The amount of trash, abandoned clothes, day packs, water containers and excrement increases each year. The Arizona immigration enforcement law was not passed because border enforcement is working.

Every day I drive north to Tucson I am detained by Border Patrol agents, usually a minimum of 4 agents at the stop, typical government operating procedures: one working, three watching.

This 30+ miles north of the border, the administration and Homeland Security crow about the seizures of illegal cash, illegal weapons and illegal drugs being up at the border.

And these same proponents advocating amnesty claim these illegal's sneaking across are simple innocents seeking an honest life in America. Why is it that employers are compelled by law to demand proof of citizenship or these innocents while law enforcement officers are forbidden by law to request it?

Quail Season 2011

Not much to report as of this printing. Reports from hunters around the state are quite sketchy. Best yet, was from up around Roosevelt Lake area both north and south of Hwy 188 past the dam towards Globe. Reports from up around Badgad turn off on Hwy 93 west side.

Support Your Outboard

It's an all too familiar sight - down the

highway with a boat in tow, and the big outboard on the back is jumping for joy every time the trailer tires cross a crack in the pavement. Our angler is thinking about fishing, while the outboard is considering jumping ship on the way to the lake.

The Flex Factor

A typical boat transom is around two inches thick, and an integral part of the hull structure, designed to transfer the engine's thrust (pushing power) from the transom to the rest of the hull, enabling the boat to move forward.

An average 200-350 horsepower outboard tips the scales somewhere between 500-800 pounds, and only four bolts hold this monster to your boat. That's fine for using the boat in the water; however, when you trim up the engine to trailer the boat, the outboard's weight acts as a lever, trying to flex the transom. Given sufficient time, the transom will eventually fail - not a good thing for the boat, outboard, or your wallet.

Imagine taking a thin piece of plastic, say a credit card, and you bend it repeatedly. Flex it enough times, the card will crack and then break - just like a boat transom with a bouncing outboard bolted to it. This phenomenon isn't unique to high-horsepower outboards or specific hull materials; all unsupported outboards - no matter what the horsepower rating - will work against the boat's transom without some kind of support to hold the engine in place

The Fix

Ideally, we could trailer a boat with the outboard trimmed down, but this is impossible because the skeg would drag on the pavement and break off.

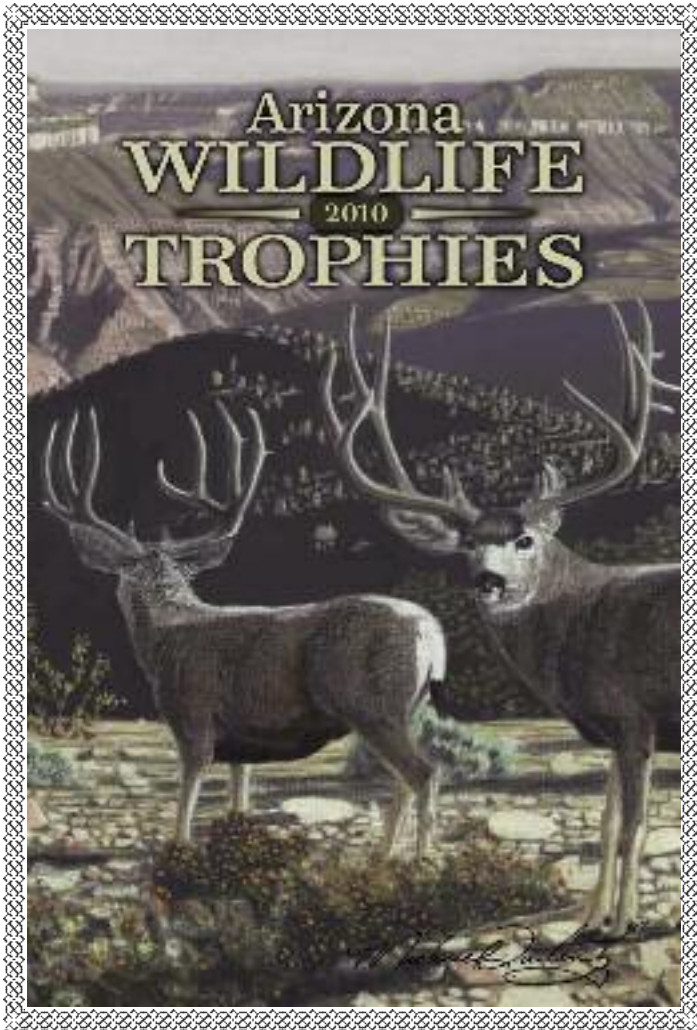
The solution is to trim up the outboard and secure it in place with a device generically called a "transom support". A transom support reduces the outboard's lever/bouncing effect to the point where it's negligible. There are several brands of transom supports on the market. Most consist of an adjustable bar that attaches to the trailer on one end and to the outboard's gearcase on the other end. Another approach is a composite tube, such as the Yamaha Outboard Trailing Support, that clips over the outboard's trim rod (or ram) with the engine trimmed up. Insert the tube over the trim rod, and then trim the unit down until the weight of the outboard is on the tube.

Either product works well to keep the outboard in place during transit, as long as you use the transom support properly. The key is getting into the habit of using a transom support. Make installing the support part of your pre-trip routine. Your transom will thank you for it.

Until next time, Be Safe and enjoy the Great Arizona Outdoors.

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