

# Arizona Wildlife News

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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.**

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The front cover photo was taken by Lisa Langell. It is titled "Drenched & Quenched". This image of a warm, August rain was captured high in the Pinal Mountains, about an hours drive up the mountain from Globe, AZ. Lisa Langell, photographer, was volunteering as a co-leader with Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park's, Paul Wolterbeek, for a "Nature and Bird Photography" field trip when she captured this image. The area is known for specialty birds like the Painted Redstart, Greater Pewee, several species of hummingbirds, butterfiles and other flora/fauna. Lisa is owner of Lisa Langell Photography.

Please visit her website at: [www.langellphotography.com](http://www.langellphotography.com) for more great photos and photographic opportunities.

The back cover photo was taken by Richard Ockenfels while volunteering on the Bar Triangle Ranch Project.

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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The Arizona Wildlife Federation welcomes stories, art and photographic contributions. We will consider, but assume no responsibility for unsolicited proposals, manuscripts, art, photographs and transparencies. Contact the Federation office at 480-644-0077 for details.

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# President's Corner

By Tom Mackin



**I**n our last issue, themed around water and water issues, we tried to share some information regarding this most important part of our natural world. With this issue, we hope to focus on land, land uses, land challenges, land management and several other aspects of this key natural component.

As I've traveled around the West over the past 30-40 years, I always look at a location as a possible new home and change of scenery. I've visited areas in Montana, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, California, Oregon, New Mexico and even Alaska but when all is said and done, I weigh the possibility of relocation to a new site against the amenities I have living in Flagstaff specifically and Arizona in general and I always come back to the single most important feature to me, access to our public lands.

With over 80% of the lands in our state in public ownership, access is a major consideration and in most cases,

we're free to enjoy our many National Forests and other public lands. There are many different types of land available; low elevation deserts, canyonlands, riparian enclaves and wetlands, huge expanses of pinyon juniper forests as well as my favorite, the ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests of the Mogollon Rim. As many different opportunities exist, so does the various land management agencies, the necessary rules and regulations concerning land uses and the challenges to balance suitable purposes and activities. The recent Coconino National Forest proposed Management Plan revision, well over 1,000 pages, speaks to the controversy and various ideas about how lands are to be used and the process is not simple or easily implemented. When multiplied by all the various National Forests and added to BLM, State Trust Lands, Tribal lands, City and County holdings and numerous others, the task quickly gets out of hand

and quite confusing.

In closing this introduction, I would encourage everyone to get involved with any land management decision impacting an area that you care about. Whether it's a National Forest management plan, proposed wilderness area, local community planning document, Travel Management Plan or any other similar task, these plans are often in place for decades and if you don't make your voice heard, you may very well find yourself restricted or even locked out of your favorite stomping ground. We will try to keep our members, supporters and others informed about these tasks but the responsibility really lies with you and the importance you place on public lands.

| Land Manager              | Acreage           | % of Total Available |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Forest Service            | 11,261,000        | 15%                  |
| Bureau of Land Management | 14,236,000        | 20%                  |
| State of Arizona          | 9,267,000         | 13%                  |
| Indian Reservations       | 20,212,000        | 28%                  |
| Individual or Corporate   | 12,703,000        | 17%                  |
| Other Public Lands        | 5,007,000         | 7%                   |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>72,686,000</b> | <b>100%</b>          |

## 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.

**Send your 'snail mail' to:**  
AWF Mail Pouch  
Arizona Wildlife Federation  
PO Box 51510, Mesa, AZ 85208

**Send your e-mail to:**  
editor@azwildlife.org



# REGIONAL ROUNDUP

## Region I - Bob Vahle Regional Director

The largest block of important habitat for wildlife and fish in Region I within the White Mountains is comprised of federal public land within the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNf) which consists of over 2 million acres. Current management of this forest habitat (e.g., timber harvest, livestock grazing, road/trail management, fire management, recreation management, wildlife/fish habitat management) is directed by the 1987 ASNf Forest Land Management Plan that is outdated for current conditions on the landscape. Currently, the ASNf has been in the process over the last several years of revising and developing a new forest land management plan that is better adapted to current conditions and impacts on the land (e.g., increased public recreation demands and impacts of off-highway vehicle use, large scale wildlife fires, unhealthy forest stands and watershed conditions, and adapting management in light of extreme drought conditions and climate change). The ASNf planning team has developed a new proposed forest land management plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that was made available for public review in February 2013. Since then, the ASNf has received over 41,000 public comments. The planning team for the ASNf is currently responding to these public comments and updating the land management plan and DEIS based on those comments.

The plan revision effort has centered around three main topic areas: maintenance and improvement of ecosystems, managed recreation, and community – forest interaction. The DEIS evaluated four alternative, including no-action (or continuing to use the 1987 plan, as amended), the

proposed plan, and two alternatives with varying levels of ecosystem restoration, outdoor recreation opportunities, recommended wilderness, and quantity of available wood products. The land management plan, final environmental impact statement, and record of decision are expected to be published in the fall of 2014.

The ASNf continues to address forest health conditions and reduction of excessive tree densities and fuel loads to reduce wildfire potential through forest restoration treatments under the White Mountain Stewardship Contract. This contract which was the first 10 year stewardship forest restoration contract in the U.S. was awarded to the ASNf in 2004 for the purpose of thinning 150,000 acres of primarily small diameter ponderosa pine trees within the “Wildland Urban Interface” (WUI) around communities in the White Mountains to improve forest health and reduce the potential for large scale wildlife fires near these communities. In addition, the ASNf is working closely with the Kaibab, Coconino, and Tonto National Forests in Arizona along with a diverse group of public stakeholders in an effort to further increase forest restoration treatment across the four national forests under the “Four Forests Restoration Initiative” or 4FRI with the same land management objectives to improve forest health and reduce potential wildfires.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter period of 2014, the AWF Region I Director participated in a number of conservation activities related to AWF’s mission. These activities included: 1) Attending Western Rivers visit to the Arizona Legislature to discuss water conservation issues; 2) Preparing testimony and

testifying before the Arizona Game and Fish Commission regarding AWF concerns about Heritage property operation and maintenance funding issues; 3) Attending a Mexican Gray Wolf Stakeholder meeting and commenting on a management plan alternative developed by the stakeholder to be presented to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4) Attending the Arizona Game and Fish Department “Outdoor Expo” at Ben Avery Shooting Range to provide the public information regarding AWF and its mission to conserve and protect wildlife/fish populations and their important habitats; 5) Participating in several conference calls with the National Wildlife Federation Staff regarding a variety of natural resource conservation issues; 6) Attending several Four Forest Restoration Initiative stakeholder meetings to discuss forest restoration issues; 7) Coordinating with the New Mexico Wildlife Federation (NMWF) and helping prepare a collaborative resolution regarding the recovery of the Mexican gray wolf to be submitted to the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) at their annual national meeting of affiliates; 8) Attending the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual - National Wildlife Federation Meeting in Baltimore, MD and presenting the AWF/NMWF collaborative resolution on recovery of the Mexican gray wolf which was unanimously passed by the 49 state affiliate representatives attending the meeting. The resolution will now be incorporated into NWF conservation policies; 9) Attending an Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) sponsored Heritage Stakeholder Operations and Maintenance Resolutions Committee meeting to discuss issues and solutions to resolve funding shortages of operation

and maintenance funding for the 16 Heritage properties owned by AGFD; and 10) Participating in a NWF conference call with NWF Staff and affiliate representatives from Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, and Montana to discuss bighorn sheep and domestic sheep issues on federal public lands such as National Forests in each state and lands administered by Bureau of Land Management.

**Activities:**  
Attended Western Rivers – State Legislature Visit 3/11/14  
Prepared testimony and testified before AGFD Commission on Heritage O/M Issues – AGFD HQ, Phx. 3/21/14  
Attended Wolf stakeholder meeting 3/28/14 AGFD – Ben Avery, Phx.  
Attended AGFD Expo...3/30/14 – AGFD - Ben Avery  
Participated in NWF Conference Call re: Public lands protection 4/22/14

Attended Four Forests Restoration Initiative (4FRI) meeting 4/23/14 Pinetop Coordinated with New Mexico WF and prepared Mexican gray wolf resolution for submittal to NWF

Attended 74<sup>th</sup> Annual NWF Meeting – Baltimore, MD 5/1-4/14  
Attended Heritage Stakeholder O/M Resolutions Committee Mtg. 5/16/14 – AGFD Phx.

## Region II - Tom Mackin Acting Regional Director

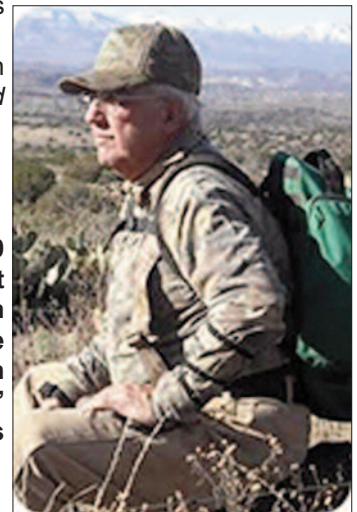
This space is generally used for Tom's regional report, however it has been hijacked by the editors. Mr. Mackin, did dutifully send in his report. You can read all four, yes four, pages of meetings that he has attended, repairs to water sources, fence restorations etc. at [www.azwildlife.org](http://www.azwildlife.org). There are **79 bullet points** in his report, dating from March 4th through May 31st. Please take the time to read it! The man is truly an Arizona conservation hero. He plows through his busy schedule day after day without much fanfare.

It gives us great pleasure to announce that our leader's good deeds have been noticed on a national scale, hence the hijacking of this valuable space. Tom has been recognized by *Field and Stream* magazine and named a 'Hero of Conservation' for June 2014.

### June 2014 Heroes of Conservation

**Mackin has spent 28 years volunteering between 900 and 1,500 hours annually with 10 different sportsmen's groups and agencies to benefit Arizona wildlife and fish. In that time, he has helped maintain more than 100 wildlife watering tanks, raise more than \$500,000 in funding, and educate almost 2,000 new hunters. "Young people don't have time for a monthlong hunter-ed class anymore, so I helped the Arizona Game and Fish Department develop a weekend campout to accomplish the same thing in three days," he says. Mackin secures grant money to underwrite the cost of the program and meals for the students. The class fills up almost as soon as it's announced.**

Hero is an overused word these days but we believe that *Field and Stream* is spot on when they gave Tom this handle. We can only say "Well done, well deserved and carry on!" We, the editorial staff, are honored to work with Mr. Tom Mackin and the other fine people at the AWF.



## Region VI Mike Matthiesen, Regional Director

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Juniors Spring Turkey Hunting Camp was a huge success. The event was in April, 18 – 20 at the V Bar V Ranch which is 12 miles North of Clint's Well on Lake Mary Road. Some of you may recall my report on last year's Turkey Hunting Camp and the success it was. There were a few minor changes to this year's event. The most noticeable difference this year was the reduced size of the camp. The cost of liability insurance causes the host organization to keep the camp at about 200 people. This year the camp was approx. 200 total people. There were 72 registered kids. Of those, there were 61 youth hunters and the rest were parents and volunteers. The hunter success was way better this year. Six birds were

taken. All the young hunters had a great time and since this is a family camp experience the non-hunting family members had lots of in-camp activities.

Events like this rely on mentors and volunteers to help where needed. Everyone pitched in for another smoothly run camp. Great food, guest speakers and lots of new friends helped to make this a success.

There were a couple of volunteers from the AWF and I really want to thank Duane Nelson who worked tirelessly in the kitchen again this year. This was my 3<sup>rd</sup> year and I expect to be there next year.

For more information I recommend calling Tim Denny or his wife and they will get the information you need for signing up. 928-301-0853

Other activities this quarter include the March 1<sup>st</sup> Yavapai Yelpers fund

raising dinner in Prescott, March 21 and 22 Pronghorn fence modifications in Chino Valley and the Game and Fish EXPO March 29 and 30.



# Recreation and Responsibility

By Tom Mackin



**I** have spent countless hours each year on public lands throughout Arizona. I'm always amazed at the thousands of miles of roads and trails that lead me to wherever I want to go. It's also quite apparent that I'm not the only one using these resources and this is where things get a bit messy, both literally and figuratively.

On many of our National Forests, due in part to concerns for resource protection, recent Travel Management Plans have been implemented, in some cases limiting access to many roads and dispersed camping locations. For example, on the Coconino National Forest (CNF), 59% of the road mileage and almost 98% of the dispersed camping areas adjacent to roads have been eliminated under these plans. Before implementation, the road density in many areas on the Coconino exceeded 5 miles of roads per square mile, over twice the recommended maximum of <2 miles per square mile so it was obvious that something needed to be done. To their credit, the CNF held numerous public meetings, including discussions for almost 20+ years, open houses, comment periods and even 1:1 talks with folks having specific questions or comments. Unfortunately the resulting plan is very inconsistent across the Forest, historic camping locations have been declared off limits, enforcement is

practically non-existent, maps are difficult to use or understand and suggestions, comments and pleas usually go nowhere, citing other Federal policies and practices. This article isn't about the Forest Service though so let me get to the main thrust of this piece.

Like many other Forest users, I go to the woods to view wildlife, hunt, fish, sight see, hike, camp and quite often to perform volunteer work in support of the AZGFD or the Forest Service. Unfortunately, many of these recreational opportunities have a serious side effect, the terrible degradation of these public lands. With almost ½ million OHV's in Arizona alone, many operators of these go anywhere mechanical beasts find it too convenient to take off up a hill to a better wildlife viewing vantage point, leaving a tell tale trail for others to follow and pretty soon these scars are visible for miles, further compounded by the ensuing soil erosion and introduction of non-native invasive plants. What was once someone's "secret sweet spot", away from a marked road and difficult to reach, is now something your liable to view on a Facebook posting or You Tube video, absent of game, peaceful solitude and no longer that favorite honey hole. Unfortunately it only takes a few vandals to create these problems and with the previously mentioned shortage of effective enforcement activities, these abuses are likely to continue and probably



even get worse.

But irresponsible OHV use isn't the only factor in the degradation of these public lands and as seen in some of the accompanying photos, other problems also exist, especially adjacent to nearby communities. A recent visit to several areas near Flagstaff turned up abandoned campsites, illegal under the Travel Management guidelines, complete with empty food and beverage containers, discarded clothing bedding, tents, water bottles and even some unwanted living room furniture. It never ceases to amaze me how folks can visit a beautiful area, spend the weekend and then proceed to leave 2-3 bags of trash, neatly stacked up at the base of a tree as if the Sanitation Department was going to come by on Monday morning and



haul away their discarded items. It wasn't too many years ago that discarded beer cans would be found along our Forest roads during and after the numerous popular hunting seasons, allegedly left by a few "slob hunters". While that is still the case, those few slobs are no longer alone and the beer cans have been joined by empty soda, water, energy drink bottles, discarded milk and juice containers and one of my pet peeves, the discarded remnants of the recent visit to McDonalds, Kentucky Chicken or other numerous establishments offering take out by those short term visitors who have stopped their rented RV for a delightful lunch in the woods without any idea of what to do with all those empty Styrofoam and cardboard boxes.

Lastly and perhaps most importantly, I wanted to briefly speak about adhering to fire restrictions on our public lands. A vast majority of wildfires in Arizona are human caused and this year the conditions are as bad as any that I've seen in my 30+ years of living in Arizona. We've been under fire and smoking restrictions on most of the northern forests since mid-April and restrictions will probably not be lifted until the monsoons start. But like many other warnings and restrictions, there are those who act irresponsibly and so human caused wildfires will continue to be a problem. In addition to the terrible loss of natural resources and wildlife habitat, we're talking about the loss of homes, business and unfortunately in many cases, human lives as well. Mid-June 2014 marks the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 15,000 acre Shultz Fire outside of Flagstaff, the devastating effects of which are still being mitigated, all caused by an illegal abandoned campfire.

Now please don't get me wrong, I know that riding ATV's, UHV's, 4X4's and other assorted vehicles are great fun and a useful tool when used properly. I also know that we all have to eat, drink and enjoy a cold beverage from time to time and doing so in a beautiful wooded setting cannot be beat but the rub comes when we don't do so in a responsible manner. We all love our forests and in order to preserve that beauty and insure that we leave them in better shape for years to come, please act responsibly when visiting these public lands and teach others to do the same. We always want to think of our activities as "recreation and not wreckreation".



# Let's Just Have A Little Fun

Linda Dightmon



**O**kay, I am just going to admit it. I can be a procrastinator. For instance, I have known for quite a while that the Summer *Arizona Wildlife News* (this issue) was to have a 'LAND' THEME. Land uses, land management and keeping public land accessible are all great topics. But how to tie it into a *Becoming an Outdoors Woman* article has given me a severe case of writer's block, not to mention heartburn.

Finally, while putting this magazine together, it occurred to me that the folks writing these land articles are honest to goodness conservationists. It also occurred to me that they were not born a conservationist. There was a time and a place when he or she caught a fish, hiked to a magnificent vista like our cover or marveled at the call of a bull elk during a frosty morning. It is very likely that our writer experienced many of these moments before they realized that wild lands and wild things need to be cherished and passed on.

What if our writer never learned to cast a line, or had the opportunity to go camping or hiking or hadn't been out of light pollution far enough to see the stars? This is where BOW can help. Does every BOW participant become a card carrying conservationist? Nope. Every BOW participant IS introduced to outdoor fun. I'll bet ya that each and every one of our writers started out by having fun in the good ol' out of doors.

Often, the first time BOW participant does not know that conservation groups like ours existed. Sometimes, the participant has never heard of the Arizona Game and Fish Department or has no inkling what the department does. There is a huge gap, a major disconnect in our society. I remember one lady who was amazed that there was such a thing as a professional angler. And, make no mistake, it is not just women. The gap is widening.

All instructors preach respect. Shooting participants pick up their brass. The Backpacking, Camping and the Outdoor Essentials class all teach the fundamentals of the leave no trace philosophy. Every BOW participant receives an AWF membership. We are baby steps and the membership is a good start.

The outdoor activities that we teach from camping to backpacking are done for the most part on public lands. When the BOW participant goes out on her own, she will want a quality place for her and her family. Here are six, out of the thirty eight, classes offered that showcase the land theme.

**CAMPING:** The camp setting is in a spot that simulates primitive camping. The class sets up several tents, a central kitchen and a fire ring. Stan and Danette are our instructors. The camp stays up for the entire weekend hosting group campfires featuring gourmet Somore's and fine Merlot. Participants can sleep in the tents or if they are not quite ready, a cabin awaits. The camp is also the venue for the varmint calling class.

**HUNTING:** Quality habitat is everything. Our hunting heritage will live or die with public land management. This is my class. I teach the how to and the where to, but I also deal with the why. I touch on the emotions of taking a life and that it is OK if you can't touch the trigger. I teach respect for the quarry and am down right manic on the importance of field care. I have taught this class for 14 years and I am happy to report that the class sizes are growing.

**BACKPACKING:** We do backpacking in two parts. The morning session is all about gear. Participants learn the essential equipment for an overnight hike without breaking the bank. The afternoon will be a day hike where they can gain confidence and practice skills. Instructor, Stacey travels from her home in Pogosa Springs, Colorado twice a year for us.

**TRICK, TRACK, TRAIL:** Longtime supporter and fun lady Tice teaches this class. Participants learn about the diverse Arizona wildlife. It is fun to watch their reaction to the hides and skulls from the bone box. Animal tracks, scat and habitats are also covered. Attendees make their own camouflage shirt with the materials they talk about and gather as they hike through the woods. This class is an original and still popular after almost 20 years.



**BIRDING:** Usually an Audubon representative teaches this traditional class. This class is always popular, always fun. I love seeing the list of birds that they find. For many participants, this is the first time that they have used binoculars.

**BASIC LAND NAVIGATION AND GEOCACHING :** I put these two sessions in my list because I believe that these skills are imperative in order to really enjoy the others. Seriously, how can you have fun if you are lost? Geocaching is a fun and easy way to really learn the capabilities of a GPS unit. When batteries fail, a map and compass will bring you home.

“BOW is about much more than hunting and fishing or even camping and paddling,” says Linda Dightmon, coordinator for the Arizona program. “It is all about learning to appreciate our wild lands and wildlife and how to help conserve them. It is all about learning a new skill or conquering an old fear. It is all about meeting like-minded women and making new friends. It could be all about learning a lot more about you.”

We have used this quote for press releases. I believe it summarizes the take away benefits of the program. The participant’s motivation for spending the weekend with us may be to “Just Get Away” and that is in itself, a legitimate reason. The modern woman’s lifestyle might consist of driving to beat deadlines, diapers and dishes. To give her a break from that is good enough.

However, when Sunday rolls around there is always at least

one person that says. “I expected to have fun, but I didn’t expect to learn so much. Thank you!” When I hear this, I know that we have done well.

If we were to treat land use and land management as a product then the BOW participant will be our end user or the customer. The benefits of proper land management are huge. It creates a place to leave it all behind but also a place to discover what really is important. The value of public lands and accessibility to these public lands is priceless. But, you can’t love what you don’t know. What better way to learn to love it than to just have a little fun.

**2014 BOW Date**  
**Mark your Calanders**  
**Friendly Pines Camp, Prescott**  
**September 5-7**



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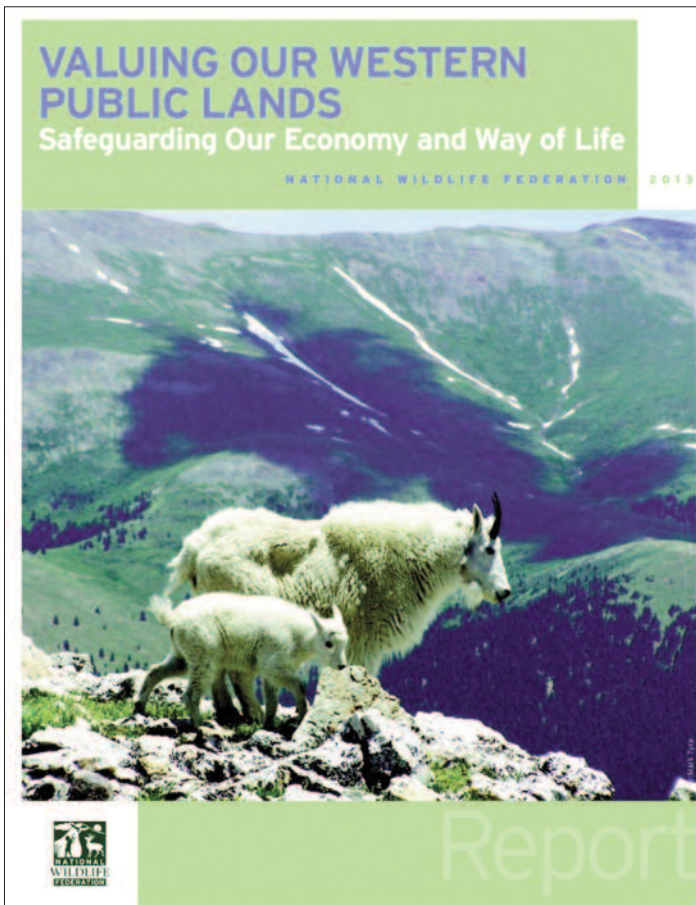
# The Value of Public Lands

By Lew Carpenter

Regional Representative for the National Wildlife Federation in the West.

## VALUING OUR WESTERN PUBLIC LANDS

A new report by the National Wildlife Federation highlights the value of public lands for hunters and anglers. It can be found at:  
[www.ourpubliclands.org/sites/default/files/files/NWF\\_PublicLands.pdf](http://www.ourpubliclands.org/sites/default/files/files/NWF_PublicLands.pdf).



The value of days spent afield alone or with great friends and family, transcends material possessions. The value of public lands, however, can be quantified. The National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) report, *Valuing Our Western Public Lands: Safeguarding Our Economy and Way of Life*, illustrates the value and scope of our western lands and sends a clear message that these lands define the American landscape and our national identity.

The bulk of the vast open spaces are in the West, where they have generated jobs and revenue from commodity production, tourism and recreation, including hunting and fishing. As the western economy changes from one dominated by natural resource production to one distinguished by knowledge- and service-based industries, conserving public lands becomes increasingly important as a magnet for businesses and employees seeking a high quality of life.

The NWF report can be found at:

<http://www.ourpubliclands.org/public-lands-report-summary>

Several recent studies and surveys within the report found that:

- Many communities near public lands managed for conservation and recreation report higher levels of economic, population and income growth and higher property values.
- The outdoor recreation industry, including fishing and hunting, contributes nearly \$650 billion to the U.S. economy and supports more than 6 million jobs. Western public lands provide recreation for people from across the country and world.
- Americans invest nearly \$39 billion annually in natural resource conservation, resulting in more than \$93 billion in direct economic benefits.
- Extractive, commodity-based industries generate needed materials and energy and provide jobs and revenue, but have been cyclical and have become a smaller part of the overall economy.

"Public Lands are not just where I recreate; they are also where I get my food," said Armond Acri, a retired chemical engineer who hunts big game and waterfowl. "I hunt on National Forest, BLM lands, State and Federal Wildlife Refuges, and State Lands. Each year I hunt grouse, ducks,

The West is filled with iconic landscapes, most of them public. With rod in hand, shotgun or rifle shouldered, most of us have experienced the bounty public lands provide. And from our earliest days in the field when any body of water or forest held unseen potential, to our current, often thoughtfully planned excursions, public lands have always been there to provide opportunity.

For many, the true American dream is pursuing North America's trophy big game on the West's vast open spaces. It's the epitome of DIY - a complete hunting or fishing trip in the West - and also a testament to our sporting nature. It's all there: the planning, the practice, the pursuit, the stalk, the shot and the harvest.

This sporting heritage is hard to quantify on a personal level.

geese, deer, elk and perhaps antelope. In a few special years I have had the privilege to hunt bison and bighorn sheep. Public Land helps me feed both my body and my soul. I cannot put a price on Public Land, but I know it is one of my most valued possessions. That is why I fight to preserve the Public Lands we all own.”

Intact habitat and unspoiled backcountry are essential to maintaining fish and wildlife habitat. Proposals to dispose or devalue the land threaten a crucial part of our economy. These proposals threaten the fundamental value of ensuring that lands belonging to all Americans stay open to everyone, now and in the future.

Through the NWF report a picture of the changing West emerges. Studies show that many communities near public lands managed for conservation and recreation report higher employment, growth and income levels and higher property values. The service industries, which include health, finance and legal jobs, have diversified the economy and sustain communities when commodity-based industries experience downturns.

Industries traditionally associated with the West - logging, mining, oil and gas drilling - are still important and provide needed materials, but are often cyclical and have become a smaller part of the overall economy.

Rich Holland is Fishing and Hunting Content Director for SmartEtail.com, which offers web hosting and online commerce tools to 15,000 independent retailers affiliated with Big Rock Sports. His business, as well as countless others, lie at the heart of the public lands economy. But again, the value runs deeper than business.

“In the 1940s, my father was in his early teens when his family moved to Los Angeles from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania,” said Holland. “He and his brother immediately discovered the great fishing and hunting available on public lands. That love of the outdoors was passed along to me and I still fish and hunt in many of the same places he frequented as a young man.

“On the other hand, quite a few of his favorite spots have been lost to encroaching development and government designations that prohibit the traditional activities of sportsmen,” he added. “Many of the retailers we work with are located adjacent to public lands, and not just in the West but along the Great Lakes, the Eastern Seaboard and the vast watershed of the Gulf Coast. These businesses rely on continued access to public lands for families who wish to fish and hunt.”

By conserving the cherished lands that drive economic growth, the American people and our national economy will be healthier and more sustainable for generations to come.

So what does it all mean in today’s world? The NWF report was created to bring the importance of public lands into the national dialogue. Several Western legislatures and members of Congress have shown they are out of touch with the public’s support for keeping public lands in public hands.

The last two congressional sessions, lawmakers introduced dozens of bills seeking to diminish protection of public land, require the federal government to sell millions of acres of the land or turn the land over to the states. State legislators and congressional members behind proposals to dispose of public

lands claim that westerners believe federal management of the lands constrains natural resource development, thus depriving states of the economic benefits. In fact, the measures contradict the majority of western public opinion and threaten the region’s economy, which benefits from the diverse businesses attracted and supported by conserving



**The next generation of anglers and hunters are relying on today’s sportsmen to conserve fish and wildlife habitat so they have the same opportunities to recreate on public lands. Photo by Lew Carpenter**

public lands.

As a sportsman from the West I have fished from Alaska to the Gulf Coast, Baja to Idaho - and many places in between - almost exclusively on public lands. Certainly there is a place for the magnificent private-land opportunities in North America - but for the common man, nothing beats the landscapes his forefathers created, paid for with his tax dollars, equipment purchases and license fees, and which is waiting with open arms for him to conserve for his children and the generations to follow.

If you care about this American heritage, your access to public lands and wildlife, and your ability to share this with your children and grandchildren, then you need to inform yourself about the positions your elected officials are taking on public lands issues. Moreover, you need to communicate your positions to your elected officials. This is the essence of representative democracy and it is more important than ever in a time when big money is exerting enormous influence.



By Bob Vahle  
Regional Director

## 74<sup>th</sup> Annual National Wildlife Federation Meeting

**T**he Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF) has been a long time affiliate with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) which today has over 4 million members and 49 state affiliates comprised of people from all walks of life and interests including hunters, anglers, bird watchers, outdoor recreationists, scientists, and families and individuals interested in our country's natural resources from both rural and urban environments. Each year the AWF sends one to two representatives to the annual NWF Meeting. This year was the 74<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of NWF held in Baltimore, Maryland from May 1-3, 2014.

The theme for this year's annual meeting was "Water: it connects us all" which is certainly a high priority natural resource and conservation issue in Arizona that affects all of us including our state's wildlife and fish populations. As an affiliate of NWF, the Board of the AWF believes it is very important to actively engage, coordinate, and share information with NWF in critical natural resource topics such as this year's water conservation theme. In addition, there are a multitude of other programs that NWF conducts that are designed to promote the wise conservation and protection of this nation's natural resources particularly its diverse wildlife and fish populations and their important habitats which coincide with AWF's mission as well. NWF programs include but are not limited to environmental education, natural resource conservation protection, restoration, and enhancement programs, and the mission to provide science based information and recommendations regarding natural resource conservation issues and success stories to our local and national leaders in each state along with members of the U.S. Congress and the President.

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) which first got its start in 1936 is the largest conservation organization in the United States dedicated to the protection, conservation, and enhancement of natural resources, particularly all terrestrial and aquatic animal species populations and their important habitats across the U.S. and around the world. NWF is one of the only conservation organizations in the country whose conservation policies are identified, developed, and approved by its state affiliate members rather than by an executive board such as the NWF Board of Trustees. The resolutions that are voted on by the affiliate membership and approved at each

years NWF annual meetings become incorporated into NWF conservation policies.

NWF conservation policies as mentioned are developed through a resolutions process where state affiliates working alone or in a collaborative coalition can identify natural resource issues and conservation opportunities that affect their respective states or a multitude of states across the country that may either adversely or beneficially impact natural resources (e.g. water, soils, vegetation) and in particular wildlife and fish populations and their habitats. Each year a major objective at the annual NWF meeting along with educating the membership in respect to the conservation theme for the year is to provide the opportunity for representatives from each state affiliate along with NWF staff to meet, discuss, network, and share information with their constituents from around the country about natural resource conservation issues and conservation success stories in their local areas and those affecting other states in the U.S. When a state affiliate or coalition of state affiliates identify a significant conservation issue that needs national attention and support from NWF the affiliates prepare resolutions and submit them to NWF to be presented before the entire body of state affiliate representatives attending the NWF Annual Meeting.

This year a total of 14 resolutions covering a wide variety of natural resource conservation issues across the country were discussed and approved which will become conservation policy of the NWF. Several resolutions were passed that address key wildlife issues and public concerns here in the West including Arizona. These resolutions addressed affiliate membership concerns for protecting our valuable federal public lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management from sale to private interests and takeover by state governments, recommendations to help reduce the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease that could decimate Arizona deer and elk herds, and recommendations to help improve the recovery of the Mexican gray wolf in Arizona and reduce impacts to the public that were developed and submitted by the AWF and New Mexico Wildlife Federation. If you wish learn more about the NWF and AWF including the natural resource conservation resolutions passed at this years 74<sup>th</sup> Annual NWF Meeting please visit the following websites ([www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org); [www.nwfaffiliates.org](http://www.nwfaffiliates.org); and [www.azwildlife.org](http://www.azwildlife.org))

# National Wildlife Federation Resolution on Transfer or Sale of Public Lands

Tom Mackin  
President, AWF

**I**n addition to various actions by some States during the infamous “sagebrush rebellions”, there is currently a move in some locations to once again transfer ownership of various public lands to the individual State in which those lands lie. The Attorney General’s office in most of these states have warned against taking such actions as they would probably be unconstitutional and therefore illegal. In light of these ongoing activities, at the most recent National Wildlife Federation Annual meeting, held May 1-3 2014 in Baltimore, the 49 Affiliates of the NWF formally approved the following resolution dealing with these types of activities. I’ve included the entire resolution because it does provide some key background and legal statements that further contribute to the importance of this resolution.

May 2, 2014

WHEREAS, public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and other federal agencies represent a birthright of the American people, provide invaluable habitat for fish and wildlife, afford opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other recreation, and support sustainable local economic activity; and WHEREAS, the first thirteen colonies created the first Public Domain when they relinquished to the federal government their several claims to what was then the West, and all of the western states other than Texas (which entered the union as an independent republic) were created out of federal territory by formal acts of Congress; and

WHEREAS, the western states were created from public domain lands by acts of Congress and relinquished any and all claims to ownership of federal lands existing within their boundaries pursuant to the language within their respective Enabling Acts; and

WHEREAS, State legislators in Western and other states with large amounts of federal public land have passed or are attempting to pass ideologically inspired proposals directing the federal government to extinguish its title to millions of acres of these lands and transfer title to the states in which these lands are located for various purposes, including ultimately selling the land to private interests; and

WHEREAS, some members of the United States Congress are proposing selling substantial amounts of federal public lands to private interests or transferring lands to states in order to generate short-term revenue and advance an anti-government political agenda; and

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federation supports a policy of retention of public lands and strict compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act which authorizes only limited disposal or exchange of federal public lands and only after careful public review of the values of those lands; and WHEREAS, wholesale exchange, sale or giveaway of millions

of acres of federal public lands, whether to states or private entities, is unnecessary and constitutes an irretrievable loss to all citizens of this nation as part of their national heritage; and WHEREAS, state legislative mandates to the federal government to extinguish title appear to violate the U. S. Constitution’s Property and Supremacy clauses; and WHEREAS, The National Wildlife Federation has vigorously opposed similar proposals for blanket disposal of federal public lands in 1983 and 1984 during the Sagebrush Rebellion and again in 2006, establishing a firm precedent of contesting such attempts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation, in annual meeting assembled May 1-3, 2014, in Baltimore, Maryland, hereby reaffirms its unequivocal opposition to large-scale exchange, sale or giveaway of federally managed public lands by the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service or other federal land management agencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Wildlife Federation supports affiliates building grassroots support to combat legislative, administrative, and legal attempts to force divestiture of federal lands and educating citizens about the practical consequences of such proposals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Wildlife Federation urges the U.S. Department of Justice to forcefully and resolutely litigate against any state that pursues a directive mandating the federal government to extinguish title to federal lands and transfer that title to the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Wildlife Federation urges Congress and the President to reject legislation that proposes to transfer federal lands to states, sell federal lands to private interests, or otherwise liquidate the federal estate.

## WHADDA’ YA’ KNOW

1. How much of our National Forest System is roadless?
2. How was the Bureau of Land Management created?
3. What US land management agency generates more revenue than it spends?
4. How many national forests exist in the US?
5. What is the largest forestry research organization in the world?
6. On what 2 ancient documents is the Public Trust Doctrine based?

# The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership: His Vision, Our Mission

By Neil Thagard and John Hamill

**I**n 1912, President Theodore Roosevelt famously said, “There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country.” Ninety years later the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) was founded to act upon that very concept.

Roosevelt was not just a man of vision—he was also a man of action. His administration was responsible for much of the public land that exists in America today. Roosevelt established the United States Forest Service and signed into law the creation of five National Parks. He also established the first 51 bird reserves, four game preserves, and 150 National Forests. The area of the United States that he placed under public ownership totaled approximately 230 million acres.

Roosevelt’s foresight in 1912 is evident today. His belief that the conservation of public lands is the best way to ensure that important habitats, special hunting grounds and favorite fishing holes will be around for future generations is as true in 2014 as it was a century ago.

Inspired by Roosevelt’s legacy, the TRCP was established with a clear and uncompromising vision to unite and amplify the voices of hunters and anglers around the biggest Federal conservation policy issues facing the sporting community. The TRCP is built around the belief that sportsmen must work together and stand up for habitat conservation and the fish and wildlife we love to pursue. The TRCP is a diverse partnership comprised of 38 national sportsmen and conservation organizations including the Pope and Young Club, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Mule Deer Foundation and Trout Unlimited – all working together to guarantee all Americans quality places to hunt and fish.

**“You don’t have to agree 100 percent of the time.”**

The strength of the TRCP exists within its diversity and the solid middle ground the group stakes out on policy issues. According to TRCP President and CEO Whit Fosburgh, “We want to continue to expand that base of partner groups. We want to get past not working with a group just because they lean more to the left or more to the right of the political spectrum. For example, If we agree on 85 percent that’s enough there to do some good for conservation. You don’t have to agree 100 percent of the time.”

The TRCP works actively on a variety of conservation policies initiatives (Table 1), many of which are aimed at guaranteeing that all American have access to quality hunting and fishing opportunities on public lands. While headquartered in Washington, DC, many of the TRCP’s 22 employees work

throughout the country in states where the implementation and impact of these policies are directly felt. This provides the direct access needed to Congress and policy makers in the Executive Branch as well as the ability to work at the local level to build alliances among sportsman’s groups, Federal, State and local agencies, and non-traditional allies to conserve, restore and enhance high quality hunting and fishing opportunities on public lands. TRCP field staff live and work in eight western states, and in February 2014, the TRCP established an Arizona Field Representative position to provide more emphasis on wildlife and sportsmen’s issues within the Grand Canyon State.

## **A Question of Balance**

The American West (and Arizona in particular) is legendary for world-class hunting and fishing on publicly accessible lands and waters. The West is also a place of extremes: dramatic climates and harsh terrain fractured by the competing interests of state and federal governments, industry and local citizens. These stakeholders often wrestle over the very natural resources that support our fish, wildlife and sporting opportunities. Balance is important in charting the management of our shared resources and public lands, with responsible development playing a role alongside conservation. If the interests of hunters and anglers aren’t considered, sportsmen and our traditions will lose.

As a national organization, the TRCP strives to represent the interests of hunters and anglers across the country. However, some issues resonate regionally. Here in the West, issues such as energy development and public lands conservation and the balance between energy production with the needs of fish and wildlife are critical. The development of our nation’s abundant energy resources can and should take place in a way that minimizes impacts to fish and wildlife populations, and areas with high-quality habitat should be conserved.

Likewise, the TRCP seeks to achieve balanced management of intact and undeveloped backcountry public lands overseen by the Bureau of Land Management. One of the reasons sportsmen experience high-quality hunting and fishing on public lands is because of intact and unfragmented habitats, which offer key habitat for numerous species, including mule deer, elk, pronghorn, wild sheep, wild trout, and upland game birds. Yet despite their importance, these places and the resources they sustain face mounting pressures from traditional and renewable energy development and construction of transmission corridors. These areas also contribute to America’s \$646 billion per year outdoor

recreation-based economy.

As development pressures continue to mount on our public lands, the TRCP is working with sportsmen's organizations, hunters and anglers, local groups and businesses, and state and federal decision makers to ensure that important BLM backcountry areas in Arizona and across the West are managed in a way that directly benefits the sporting community. This includes working through local BLM resource management planning processes to conserve specific backcountry areas from development, prioritize habitat enhancement projects, and safeguard access that enables sportsmen to enjoy these high-quality public lands. Important projects in these areas may include water developments for wildlife, the management of pinyon-juniper stands to improve habitat for mule deer and elk, and the control of invasive species.

### Identifying Arizona's Most Important Hunting and Fishing Areas

Another of the TRCP's tools to ensure that sportsmen are represented in public land management decisions is the Sportsmen Values Mapping Project. In 2007, TRCP began working with Montana sportsmen's groups and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks to gather information about the state's most important hunting and fishing areas. The project was expanded to include Wyoming in 2011 (see Figure 1) and was initiated earlier this year in Arizona. The goal of the project is to utilize input from local sportsmen to identify high-value hunting and fishing areas. Identifying where these areas is the first step in developing strategies to ensure their long-term conservation and continued use for hunting and fishing. The maps are used to show decision makers the places that sportsmen value most, and to help focus land and resource management agencies on conservation, restoration, enhancement and access opportunities. In partnership with local sportsmen's groups, the TRCP will host a series of Sportsmen's Values Mapping workshops in communities throughout Arizona in early 2015.

### Enhancing the Lees Ferry Trout Fishery

The 16-mile stretch of the clear, cold tail water of the Colorado River between the Glen Canyon Dam and the beginning of the Grand Canyon National Park is commonly referred to as Lees Ferry. Lees Ferry is widely regarded as the most productive and highest quality wild trout fishery in Arizona. Anglers from around the world have come to Lees Ferry to fish for rainbow trout in this large, swift flowing river as it winds its way through the deep red rock canyons. Glen Canyon Dam operations directly influence the quantity and quality of the aquatic food base. Daily fluctuations in flows associated with hydropower production influence the delivery of food for fish and impact the success of spawning – and in-turn affect the numbers of trout in the river. Currently, the Bureau of Reclamation and National Park Service are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Operation of Glen Canyon Dam, which when complete will guide management and research efforts for the next 20 years. The TRCP is actively working to influence the developing EIS in partnership with Trout Unlimited, the International Federation of Fly Fishers, the Northern Arizona Flycasters, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department to maintain and enhance this important Blue Ribbon rainbow trout fishery.

While the faces in the political scene may have changed

since Theodore Roosevelt's day, many of the challenges that hunters, anglers and wildlife managers face in conserving our fish and wildlife have remained the same. The most effective way for sportsmen to face and overcome these challenges is for all of us to work together and empower ourselves with credible information – information that will allow us to build defensible, logical and science-based arguments to sustain our nation's fish, wildlife, habitats and the opportunities for hunters and anglers. Look to the TRCP as a trusted source of information in the ongoing fight to uphold America's irreplaceable outdoor legacy.

*To learn more about the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, its efforts, and to sign up for free, visit [www.TRCP.org](http://www.TRCP.org). Also be sure to "like" the TRCP on Facebook and "follow" the group on Twitter.*

*TRCP's Western Outreach Director Neil Thagard resides in Cody, Wyoming. John Hamill resides in Flagstaff, Arizona and is TRCP's Arizona Field Representative*

## The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership 2014 Conservation Policy Priorities

### Conservation Funding

Federal funding for conservation programs is an integral part of our economy

### Responsible Energy Development

Balancing energy production with the needs of fish and wildlife is critical

### Public Lands

Managing public lands for fish and wildlife habitats is a high priority for sportsmen

### Access

One of sportsman's biggest challenges is accessing quality places to hunt and fish

### Private Lands and Agriculture

Conservation must remain economically viable for agricultural producers and landowners

### Marine Fisheries

A balanced approach to conserving and managing our coastal and ocean resources is needed

### Climate Change

Climate change results in more fires, warmer water, reduced instream flows, declining fish and wildlife populations, and fewer hunting and fishing opportunities

### Water and Wetlands

Water quantity and quality issues are putting pressure on fish and wildlife populations and their habitat

### Watersheds

Focus is needed on the conservation of threatened watersheds as diverse as Alaska's Bristol Bay and the Chesapeake Bay

## AWF 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

The 91<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the Arizona Wildlife Federation was held June 7, 2014 at Hart Prairie Preserve. All board members were in attendance including Lew Carpenter our Regional Representative from the National Wildlife Federation. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful scenery along with the comfortable temperatures that Flagstaff offers.

Yearly elections were held and Tom Mackin - President with Brad Powell serving as Vice President of Operations and Conservation, Bob Vahle - NWF Representative, Brad Powell - Alt NWF Representative and Sarah Luna - Legislative Liaison were reelected for a year term. Directors: Valerie Morrill - Region 4, Mike Matthiesen - Region 6, Duane Nelson, Jody Latimer and Ben Altoneder - Directors at Large were all reelected for a 2 year term. Appointed BOD members for 2014-15 include Valerie Morrill - Secretary, Jerry Thorson - Treasurer and Brian Wakeling - Director at Large. A Resolution regarding Travel Management on National Forests in Arizona was adopted. More details can be found at [www.azwildlife.org](http://www.azwildlife.org).

Pat Madden, AZ Game & Fish Commissioner, was a guest speaker during the annual meeting of the board. Following the board meeting, the annual awards and dinner was served by Barbara Kennedy with Cowgirls Forever.

# AWF CELEBRATES 2014 AWARD WINNERS!

By Ryna Rock

As members of the Conservation Community we all know those we feel go above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of the rich natural heritage that has been preserved in Arizona from generation to generation. Each year the AWF puts out a call to our membership, and other organizations and agencies, in an effort to acquire information on those that have been identified by their peers as having put forth significant effort and achievement as conservationists. The submissions we receive are then reviewed with the aid of a rigorous set of award criteria by the Awards Committee, which passes on the final candidates' nominations to the AWF Board of Directors for final review and approval. We are proud to present this year's winners.

### FRIENDS OF THE CLIFFS

#### CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR



Carrisa Hoglander & Maggie Sacher photo by: Lew Carpenter

Friends of the Cliffs was organized in 2011, and gained their non-profit status in 2013, as a grassroots, community-based organization that works with the Bureau of Land Management, other agencies and non-profit groups to protect the natural and cultural resources of the Vermillion Cliffs National Monument and surrounding areas in Northern Arizona. Their vision is to

enhance the connection of people to the land, ensuring a future for the natural, expansive landscape of well-managed and valued Public Lands.

This group provides on-the-ground resources such as materials, volunteers, expertise, public outreach capacity, and funding in their collaborative efforts. An Assistance Agreement allows them to partner actively with the Bureau of Land Management, the Bodeaway/Gap Chapter of the Navajo Nation, and others.

One of their most popular partnerships is with Condor Cliffs, The Peregrine Fund, Arizona. Each year The Friends contribute of their goodwill, time and energy not only to the Peregrine Fund's annual condor release, which occurs within the Vermillion Cliffs Monument, but also to the "resident" science crews that call the area home while they manage all the tasks associated with Arizona's Condor Re-introduction Program. Their excellent promotion of events planned to enhance the celebration of the annual release, as well as the release itself has built it into an extremely popular public event with this year's attendance at 350 people. The annual release coincides with National Public Lands Day, the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance America's public lands.

They are also a lead organization in active support and public relations for Arizona Game & Fish Department's voluntary non-lead ammo program in Northern Arizona. Their use of their website and their visually pleasing Facebook page to educate and inform on this and a host of other vital conservation issues has had a positive affect on the public's interest in Public Lands, wildlife, outdoor ethics, and critical issues that we face today.

The Friends of the Cliffs, in spite of, or maybe because of their seeming isolation from the rest of the Arizona, in a landscape so hauntingly beautiful and vast that a person feels their "smallness" and their insignificance, have managed to build a conservation service presence that puts many other larger, more supposedly powerful organizations to shame. They are truly doing the business of conservation, putting their personal efforts where their mouths are, so to speak, and should be recognized for that by the larger conservation community.



**CHRIS N. PARISH**  
**(AZ PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY)**  
**THOMAS E. MCCULLOUGH AWARD**



The McCullough Award is one of the two most prestigious awards given by the Arizona Wildlife Federation, therefore it is only fitting that the “bar” be high when it comes to the nominees considered for it. In Chris Parish, we have such a nominee without question.

Raised in Buttonwillow, CA near the historical range of the remnant California condor population in the

southern San Joaquin Valley, he has been a hunter his whole life. Being an avid hunter with an equal interest in wildlife motivated Chris to start his education in fish and wildlife management, which he pursued through attendance at Northern Arizona University and achieving a BS in Biology, Emphasis on Fish & Wildlife Management in 1996.

In Spring 1997, Chris became the California Condor Project Coordinator, Wildlife Specialist I, Field Operations Region II, Arizona Game & Fish Dept. Simplified work description – assisting The Peregrine Fund with the reintroduction of California Condors in Northern Arizona. In reality it was a complex position involving specialized surveys, habitat evaluations, inventories, and other studies; development and coordination of interagency agreements and projects; addressing problems of logistics and coordination with and between cooperators and landowners; representation of the Department in meetings and other contacts, agencies, and the public; transporting, tagging, releasing, tracking, trapping, studying, observing, and collecting observational data on condors; producing summarized updates including charts, graphs, maps and text; preparing reports for publication and public presentations for scientific and popular audiences; and development of budget requests and development of outside funding sources. Chris held this position until November 2000, at which time he was offered the position of California Condor Reintroduction Project Director with The Peregrine Fund, Arizona.

Since 2000, Parish has directed condor field operations for The Peregrine Fund. His duties/accomplishments in that position thus far are as follows: Develop and maintain working relationships with cooperating state, and federal agencies, private groups and land owners. Planning, facilitating, and conducting meetings with cooperating agencies and public. Provide presentations for both educational and developmental purposes. Identify, create and organize data systems to collect, analyze and report findings. Develop and perform technical and scientific representation for the program including oral and formal documents. Solicit, secure and maintain staff. Provide direction and management for a crew of 10 individuals in a remote location within northern Arizona. Design, plan, construct and maintain facilities and equipment for the northern Arizona

field Station including hack boxes, and holding cages, vehicles, housing, and treatment facility. Design, develop, deploy and maintain tracking devices, tracking receivers, database storage systems to monitor condor populations. In 2002, assisted in the research and development of the first condor-patagial-mount GPS transmitters with Microwave Telemetry in Maryland and deployed over 30 of these units and use the tracking data daily. Provide project representation to media through photographic, video, written, and personal interviews. Maintain and develop relationships with current and potential contributors.

He regularly makes presentations to hunters and hunter groups to find common ground on the dangers to the condor population of using lead ammunition and educating on the voluntary use of non-lead ammunition within the condor 10j designated area of southern Utah and northern Arizona.

He says the voluntary program has made strides in keeping lead out of the condor’s range, but lead is still the leading problem. He adds, “It’s a long road and it takes time to change, and I think that’s pretty reasonable. What we should be concerned about is whether we leave the environment in a way that these species can survive in the future. It’s true, extinction is part of the natural process, but it’s becoming clear we played a role in the condor’s decline. I’m not one to say we have to make it like it was, but we should make it like we want in the future.” For him, the story is not about saving the condor as much as what has been done to save the condor, in order to repeat the experiment and open the minds of others to inquire about other species and the roles they play in the natural resource continuum.

Chris Parish and his wife, Ellen, have two daughters and reside in Northern Arizona. The four of them are frequently found together exploring the wilds of the Four Corners Region while tracking condors.....and of course there’s fishing and hunting to be done as well.

**BOBBY GOITIA**  
**EDUCATION CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR**



The criteria for this award states that it is “for original and significant work that promotes public understanding and appreciation of the present and future well-being of Arizona’s wildlife, wildlife habitat, and natural systems”. Bobby Goitia’s efforts have been many over several decades of dedication to the Arizona Game and Fish Department Hunter Education program. The Hunter Education program may very well provide the very first exposure to the concepts of wildlife management,

the importance of habitat and habitat preservation as well as ethical and responsible behavior in the field.

In addition to the simple fact that he has been an Instructor/Chief Instructor for over 35 years, he has successfully and admirably weathered many challenges in Department procedures, new manuals, new instructor teams and the never ending challenge of responding to the needs of thousands of students while balancing the goals and requirements of the Arizona AZGFD Hunter Education program. As students and instructors became increasingly busy by the mid-2000's and class attendance started to wane for the traditional 4 week, two days a week, two hours per day classroom setting, Bobby brainstormed the idea for a three day Hunter Education weekend, the first in the State, covering all the required classes, demonstrations and field exercises but accomplishing them in a mid-Friday through noon Sunday timeframe. Now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, the Flagstaff Hunter Education camp is a resounding success geared towards local student participation and the class fill's out within days of the initial announcement of availability.

In addition, with the support of several other tenured Chief Instructors, Bobby has maintained a cadre of local Instructors and volunteers with the knowledge, skills and background to support this important program in Northern Arizona. Bobby's contributions have been many and valued over the years and through this nomination his dedication and efforts are recognized.

**HENRY PROVENCIO AND DICK FLEISHMAN**  
**US FOREST SERVICE**  
**GOVERNMENT AGENCY**  
**CONSERVATIONISTS OF THE YEAR**



**Dick Fleishman planting in the Shultz fire area**

The criteria for this awards states that it is for "recognizing government agency staff for outstanding conservation accomplishment and collaborative efforts with AWF and its supporters".

When viewing the National Forests across the Mogollon Rim and beyond, there is no greater threat to wildlife, habitat, water supplies and public safety than these severely degraded landscapes. As initial co-Chairs for this 30 year plan to restore forest functionality to almost 2,000,000 acres, Henry and Dick have worked tirelessly to lead the planning efforts, engage over 30 diverse stakeholders and coordinate all efforts for implementing this ambitious but much needed program. The key word in the criteria for this award is collaboration and to bring over 30 stakeholders to the table at least monthly for the past

several years has been an effort of biblical proportions and to do so without a single 911 call or other significant incident speaks greatly for the respect that the group has for the leadership of Henry and Dick. Unanimous agreements are few and far between but most parties agree that this effort may be the only way to preserve our treasured forests.

While Henry has recently stepped off the team to take another assignment in Colorado, Dick is now the sole interim Chair and as we approach the issuance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD), it can safely be said that we would not be where we are today in this process had it not been the tireless efforts of these two outstanding Forest Service employees. In light of this widely accepted acknowledgement, we recognize both Henry and Dick for these efforts.

**JOHN UNDERWOOD, AWF LIFE MEMBER**  
**MEDIA CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR**



John Underwood's efforts have been uncountable over many years of caring dedication to the AWF quarterly news magazine, Arizona Wildlife News. In 2006, John was very instrumental in breathing new life into our publication that had languished in the preceding years. John has maintained a column, Stream and Game Trails, since that time up through the Spring 2014 issue when he decided to pursue other interests, including spending more time with his grandchildren and fishing instead of writing about fishing. In addition, John spent many years on our Editorial Committee, assisting with articles, layout, content and general publishing tasks. As a volunteer on this committee, John has always been helpful with suggestions and comments, keeping our approach relevant and timely. John's contributions have been an exemplary conservation achievement through his personal efforts and commitment over the years and through this nomination, we extend our deep appreciation to John for all that and more.

## Because You Belong

Your Arizona Wildlife Federation membership entitles you to discounted premiums and/or enhanced benefits on a variety of our insurance products and financial services. For more information without obligation, call

**Agent: Art Mier**

**Phone: 602-265-8223, Cell - 928-595-2026**

**Toll free @ 1-800-224-1120-X240**

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**mutualofomaha.com**

**Tell us you belong to the Arizona Wildlife Federation**

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# Bar Triangle Ranch Project

by Tom Mackin



On Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup> volunteers from Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation, Arizona Wildlife Federation, National Wild Turkey Federation, Mule Deer Federation and members of other wildlife conservation organizations and Arizona Game and Fish Department staff, gathered west of Paulden in Yavapai County to assist in the modification of approximately 6 miles of old fencing to improve pronghorn access to grasslands and water supplies. This effort was coordinated by G&F staff working in the Landowner Relations program and the AZSFWC quickly approved a budget for port-a-potties and started to get the word out for volunteers.

The original fence, a combination of 5-6 strand barbed wire as well as almost 3 miles of woven wire, severely hampered pronghorn access to what otherwise would have been some very good habitat. About 8:30 AM almost 2 dozen workers started to pull fence staples and tie wire and dismantle the fences identified for removal. By noon, 4 miles of problem fencing had been removed, rolled up for salvage and at least 2 miles of new smooth wire laid out. Additionally, several of the old cedar posts needed to be replaced and with the help of 4-5 younger new AZGFD recruits, these posts were also in place.

The decision was made to continue work on the first 4 miles after lunch rather than take apart the remaining two miles as a combination of woven wire and multiple staples slowed progress substantially. Following lunch, the volunteers started to stretch out the new wire, staple it at the proper height and spacing and tie wire in the existing fence stays. In spite of temperatures only in the 70's and a light breeze, the work was still taxing on all parties and care was taken to make sure that everyone drank plenty of water and used sun screen or other protective clothing.

Later that afternoon, with winds increasing and storm clouds gathering on the horizon, a well coordinated final push for completing the task at hand was made and by about 5 PM the last stays were wired in and we could admire our efforts. Pronghorn had been sighted in the area several times during the day and with the new fence in place, access for these speedy ghosts of the grasslands will be much easier. This project was a fine example of the work that the AZGFD and sportsmen volunteers are doing throughout our state to improve wildlife habitat and accessibility. Thank you once again to all of our volunteers.

## THE FIGHT TO KEEP NEW URANIUM MINING AWAY FROM GRAND CANYON

By U.S. Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, D-Ariz.

As a resident of Flagstaff, I am fortunate to live near the Grand Canyon, a beloved national treasure and Arizona's greatest natural resource.

I'm also fortunate to be the U.S. representative for Arizona's District One, which includes many small towns and Native American tribes that have a stake in the Canyon's well-being.

That's why I am so concerned about new uranium mining at the Grand Canyon. It threatens our environment as well as our local economies. Many people don't realize that the Canyon brings about 12,000 jobs and \$700 million into our economy each year. So our northern Arizona communities are unified in opposition to new uranium mining at the Canyon, and we work together whenever a new threat arises.

Last year, I joined regional tribes, conservation groups, local officials and the superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park in urging the Arizona State Land Department not to allow a new uranium mine near the Havasupai Tribe's homeland.

The Havasupai Tribe is rightfully concerned about possible contamination of its primary source of drinking water. We know too well the risks of allowing such a project near our communities and water supply. Generations of Native Americans have suffered health and economic damage as a result of past decades of uranium mining – damage that affects the people, land, water and livestock of the region.

The Navajo Nation, for example, grapples with the problems

caused by abandoned mines and polluted water, the result of decades of uranium mining. But some good news came in April, with a historic settlement that will provide \$1 billion to clean up about 50 abandoned uranium mines that left contamination and radioactive waste near communities.

Despite this painful legacy, we continue to see attempts to bring new uranium mines to the Canyon. In October 2011, several lawmakers introduced legislation to allow new uranium mining on about 1 million acres of public lands forming Grand Canyon National Park's watershed. Their bill would have overturned an existing moratorium on new mining and mining claims and blocked Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's proposal to extend those protections for the next 20 years.

Fortunately, that effort failed, and in January of 2012, Salazar put his proposal into action, announcing a 20-year ban on new uranium projects at the Grand Canyon. This was great news and important progress, but let's be clear: This fight isn't over. Lawmakers and companies continue to push for new uranium mining at the Canyon.

Lawsuits have been filed opposing the moratorium, and as recently as November, Congress voted on a bill that could have rolled back the 20-year ban. H.R. 1965 aimed to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to revise requirements for permits to drill in energy projects on federal lands. Read broadly, the act could've allowed uranium drilling and streamlined the permitting process through federal agencies. I voted no, of course, and I'm pleased that the bill has stalled.

Past uranium mining left a damaging legacy, but through continued vigilance and working together, we can ensure a healthier future for our families, our economy and our outdoor treasures.



# Historical Tales

*Reproduced by Ryna Rock from AGPA Outdoor News March 1958*

## 'PROTECT OUR PUBLIC LANDS' IS THE 1958 THEME

"Protect Our Public Lands" is this year's theme for National Wildlife Week March 16-22, it has been announced by the National Wildlife Federation, sponsors of the program.

The importance of public lands cannot be over emphasized as more than 80 percent of the lands of Arizona are controlled and regulated by the Federal or State Government.

"One cannot over emphasize the important role that public lands play in Arizona", Bill Beers, president of the Arizona Game Protective Association stated in announcing the AGPA's participation in this program.

Beers had named Ben Avery, outdoor writer for the "Arizona Republic", state chairman to head up activities here. AGPA county vice-presidents will serve as county chairman to help distribute the informational and educational materials to newspapers, radio, TV, and schools.

Each year a different theme is used by the NWF to place emphasis on one phase of this work. The AGPA sponsored several "show me" trips last year to illustrate what is being done in Arizona to "Make a Place for Wildlife," last year's theme.

National Wildlife Week was first proclaimed by President Roosevelt in 1938. It has been sponsored annually

since by the National Wildlife Federation and the state groups that belong to the NWF.

Purpose of the Week is to focus public attention on the importance of our natural resources and on the broad and pressing problems of conservation.

The public lands, over one-quarter of the nation's area, belong to us and our neighbors and to the people of the United States. Held in trust by local, state and federal governments, these lands are rich in resources, diverse in meeting our wants for water, minerals, timber, grass and recreation. One of the greatest of our heritages, they are an ingredient of American living that are part of us, just as kinship with the natural resources and wildlife we wish to save.

The public domain has become a national inheritance. Wilderness was a part of those earlier generations of Americans who settled our country. It is to this that many of us must turn for a little of the feeling that comes from living "close to the land" in the out-of-doors. These lands also provide a diversity of the material things so essential to living in this modern age.

But just as we have grown to value the many benefits of this public estate, so must we begin to assume a greater responsibility for taking care of the land

itself—the soils, water, minerals, plants, animals, scenery and wilderness. Our use must be keyed to a basic concern for these resources so that they can continue to satisfy our wants in the face of rapidly increasing pressures upon them.

Public ownership of land pre-dates our nation. The federal government has always been the largest landowner in the country. After the Revolution some of the states gave their large tracts of land to the new government. It made the Louisiana Purchase from France. It cleared title to the Pacific Northwest, by treaty with England. After the Mexican War, the US obtained California and the Pacific southwest. Thus from about 1786 until 1852 the US accumulated large tracts of land areas.

The disposition period lasted from 1800 to 1934, when a law to regulate grazing and called the Taylor Grazing Act was passed. Settlers and other citizens and corporations bought or homesteaded land. Railroads and states acquired it. Unrestrained, headlong and sometimes fraudulently we gave or sold two-thirds of what we jointly had owned.

Conservationists revolted against land fraud and waste. It was decided to hold some land permanently in federal ownership. Yellowstone Park was

established in 1872. Forest reserves began in 1891. Other set-asides followed. These lands required management. At first management was largely custodial-put out the fires and trespassers. Today your land managers sell timber, manage recreation, lease minerals, build roads and otherwise develop and conserve these resources to the extent of the authority and appropriations given them by Congress.

Various proposals to turn public domain or National Forest to state or private ownership have been defeated by widespread opposition. In 1931 a commission appointed by President Hoover proposed to grant the lands, after reserving the mineral rights, to any state choosing to take them. Bills to do this never got out of committee. Again in 1947 Congress debated legislation to sell public grazing lands to livestock men. This also died as a result of violent opposition from many quarters.

As recently as 1953 bills were introduced to provide different legal authorization for grazing, especially on National Forests. They failed because many feared them as a first step towards actual land transfer. Thus, during the last 30 years the American people have made it fairly clear that they won't consent to major disposals of federal land. Nor are they enthusiastic about buying more.

National Forests provide timber, watershed protection, grazing and wildlife. They are open to mineral development and recreation, including hunting and fishing. In some national forests near big cities recreation is now the principle public use. Forest managers emphasize multiple use. This is the use of the same or closely intermingled areas for two or more purposes on a carefully planned basis so as to obtain the most or best of each. The Forest Service manages the 147 national forests within the states.

National Parks and Monuments were established to preserve outstanding scenic and natural areas or historic treasures. They provide recreation chiefly, including camping, hiking, nature study, fishing and other outdoor activities. Commercial forestry, mining and grazing are forbidden. With very few exceptions, hunting is prohibited. The National Park Service manages the 26 national parks, 79 national monuments and a number of smaller similar areas within the states.

Wildlife refuges provide hospitable

habitat for valued wildlife species, especially migratory waterfowl, in places and during seasons most urgently needed. They are open to recreation use including fishing, and, in parts of some areas, carefully regulated hunting. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife manages the 247 wildlife refuges. Some of these areas insure survival of endangered species like the whooping crane and trumpeter swan. The system of waterfowl refuges is used in safeguarding breeding stocks of wild ducks and geese from nesting regions to wintering grounds.

After the national forest, national parks and other areas reserved for special purposes have been taken out, the lands left of Uncle Sam's original holdings are known as the public domain. These lands, administered by the Bureau of Land Management, provide grazing and wildlife habitat, minerals, timber, watershed and recreation. Within them 59 grazing districts, totaling 158 million acres, have been organized under the Taylor Grazing Act for the regulation of livestock uses and protection of the range. Outside the grazing districts are some 35 million acres, mostly desert but including a lot of tag ends of the original federal estate. The unreserved public domain lands are still open to disposal under homestead, mining, and other laws, if classified as suitable for those purposes.

Military reservations serve primarily as training areas for our national defense forces. The Defense Department controls the military reservations.

Numerous miscellaneous types of federal lands exist. These include land used by the Atomic Energy Commission and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Indians, not the government own the Indian reservations, which account for 55 million acres or 3 percent of the nation's land area. But they are managed by the government, and held in trust for the Indians, and have many of the attributes, physical and policy-wise of federal lands.

The Geological Survey supervises mineral leasing on all types of land where leasing is permitted. Each type of federal land has its special use, laws, history and management system. Yet the major similarities exist among all types. Ninety percent of the federal lands lie in the western third of the US, although each state contains some. Federal government owns or manages 54 percent of the land in the 11 western states. Eighty four percent of Nevada is

federal and it's no coincidence that Nevada is the most arid state.

History records that level, fertile, well-watered lands went first into private ownership. The idea of permanent federal ownership arose after most lands in the eastern half of the country were privately owned. Much of the federal land in these regions was purchased from private owners. The federal government owns 305 million acres, 21 percent of the country's total land area.

## JUNE TO BE 'TEDDY' ROOSEVELT MONTH

June, 1958, has been selected as the month to feature Theodore Roosevelt's contribution to natural resources conservation, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. It represents a part of the year-long series of observances planned by the Theodore Roosevelt Centennial Commission to commemorate that esteemed American in this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

Roosevelt's active interest in the out-of-doors and his fostering and promoting of national programs for forestry, wildlife, parks, monuments, and land and water management are well known. His defense of the public interest in the nation's natural resources wealth and his obstruction of those he chose to call "pseudo patriots" developed widespread awareness of conservation.

The Centennial Commission, after conference with the Natural Resources Council of America – a service association made up of major national and regional conservation organizations and scientific societies – has issued a call that all the country's conservation groups plan to participate in its June observance.

### WHADDA' YA' KNOW

#### Answers

1. One third
2. By merging the General Land Office & US Grazing Service in 1946
3. Bureau of Land Management
4. 155
5. US Forest Service
6. Magna Carter (A.D. 1215) & the Justinian Code (Roman law)

## Welcome New Members

|                    |             |    |                   |              |    |
|--------------------|-------------|----|-------------------|--------------|----|
| Emma Collins       | Phoenix     | AZ | Donna Moss        | Goodyear     | AZ |
| Katarina Dickinson | Phoenix     | AZ | Danny Nielson     | Mesa         | AZ |
| Margaret Dickinson | Phoenix     | AZ | Petra Orta        | Yuma         | AZ |
| Tom Dougherty      | Loveland    | CO | Sandra Pacheco    | Albuquerque  | NM |
| Jackie Eiche       | Coolidge    | AZ | Deanna Peters     | Scottsdale   | AZ |
| Linda Gross        | Globe       | AZ | Randy Pinson      | Phoenix      | AZ |
| Charlie Hatch      | Safford     | AZ | Laurie Ramsbacher | Chandler     | AZ |
| Patricia Hauser    | Maricopa    | AZ | Alice Sannar      | Phoenix      | AZ |
| Ross Hawkins       | Sedona      | AZ | Steve Smoot       | Eaton        | IN |
| Chip Hiding        | Mesa        | AZ | Brenda Spicer     | Yuma         | AZ |
| Gretchen Hildner   | Kingman     | AZ | Shirley Standard  | Chandler     | AZ |
| Catherine Koppel   | Prescott    | AZ | Jean Tomlinson    | Green Valley | AZ |
| Kathy Looney       | Albuquerque | NM | Jerry VanMourik   | Mesa         | AZ |
| Lisa Mallory       | Kingman     | AZ | Amy VonBargen     | Yuma         | AZ |
| Kate Matthews      | Charlotte   | NC | Deborah Wilson    | Chino Valley | AZ |
| Bill McCance       | Gilbert     | AZ | David Wolf        | Flagstaff    | AZ |
| Michelle McCann    | Henderson   | NV | Jennifer Wong     | Tucson       | AZ |
| Debbie McKnight    | Surprise    | AZ |                   |              |    |

# Camp Cook

By Ryna Rock



## Barbeque Beef and Biscuit Bake

- 3 lbs coarsely ground beef
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- 1 c barbecue sauce
- 1 c beef broth
- 1 c ketchup
- 2 c sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
- ½ tsp onion powder
- 1 (7.5 oz) pkg buttermilk biscuits (10)

Heat a 12-inch Dutch oven over 9 hot coals. Brown the ground beef. Pour off the drippings and add barbecue sauce, ketchup, onion powder, garlic powder, and beef broth. Cook 10 minutes, until steaming. Sprinkle cheese on top and arrange biscuits on top of the cheese. Cover with lid and place 15 hot coals on top. Cook, covered, for 20 minutes, or until biscuits are golden brown and cooked through. Serves 8.

## Campsite Lima Beans

- ½ onion, chopped
- 1 small jar diced red pimento
- 1 Tbsp butter
- 1 c sour cream
- 2 (1 lb ) cans lima beans, drained

Saute onion in butter. When transparent, add lima beans and heat. When beans are hot, add pimento and sour cream and cook till heated through. Don't boil, as the sour cream will curdle.

## Caramel Apple Cobbler

- 1 pkg caramel cake mix (Duncan Hines)
- 1 (12-oz) can lemon-lime soda
- 3 cans of apple pie filling

Line bottom of a 12-inch Dutch oven with foil. Pour in the apple pie filling and cover with dry cake mix. Pour ¾ can of lemon-lime soda over the cake mix and put the lid on. Place 8 coals on the bottom and 15 coals on top and cook 35-40 minutes. Check at 30 minutes to see if you need to take off bottom coals and put fresh ones on top. Cake should be browned. Serve with ice cream or whipped cream.

| 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 |



Please take a moment to review the list of Life Members and past Benefactors to make sure we have not missed anyone. If you want to add someone to the list or upgrade your own membership status, please use the membership form provided below.

## AWF Membership Application

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Check Enclosed!

Please bill my  Mastercard  Visa  Discover

Expiration Date: / /

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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- 30 Individual
- 75 Individual - 3 years
- 45 Family
- 110 Family - 3 years
- 100 Patron
- 500 Life Member
- 325 Distinguished Life Member (65+ or Disabled Veteran)
- 500 Benefactor
- 75 Small Business
- 500 Corporate

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**Mail To:**  
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**Mesa, AZ 85208**

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