

# Arizona Wildlife News

Spring 2015



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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 Colleen Miniuk-Sperry/CMS Photography. The photo is of Indian Paintbrush at Red Canyon near Sedona. The expanded second edition of "Wild in Arizona: Photographing Arizona's Wildflowers" is available for purchase from [www.wildinaz.com](http://www.wildinaz.com). Coleen co-authored the book with Paul Gill.

The back cover photo was taken by Cheryl Reuss. "As an amateur photographer, i love the outdoors hiking and capturing the uniqueness of my surroundings. I am fascinated by reflections in the water, landscapes, flowers, and wildlife. I have been taking photographs since i can remember and love how I am able to capture a moment in time. This roadrunner was taken along Bloody Basin Road on a Valentine's day road trip."

If you have a photo you would like to submit for our cover, please contact Kimberlee at [awf@azwildlife.org](mailto:awf@azwildlife.org)

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# President's Corner

By Tom Mackin



**M**ost of you know that I've been fortunate enough to live in Flagstaff for over 30 years now and while it's the middle of February you would never know it as I look out my window. Instead of 2-3' of snow in my backyard and temperatures in the 20's, I'm looking at pine needles littering the bare ground and temperatures in the low 60's. Officially we should have received over 60 inches of snow so far, and just over 3 inches of precipitation but unfortunately we're less than 50% on our snowfall and down over a third on total precipitation year to date.

My biggest concern with all this is of course the impending fire danger if we don't get some significant precipitation in the next 6-8 weeks. Last years Slide Fire in Oak Creek Canyon, that charred over 20,000 acres, came in May following similar Winter conditions. Our wildlife needs winter moisture to restock water storage facilities and kick start the green-up and without it, the adults and soon to be born young of the year will all suffer. Let's hope that conditions

will soon return to a wetter, cooler late Winter and Spring.

As I mentioned in my last column, our State and federal legislators are back in session and as expected many seem intent on introducing as many far fetched proposals as possible. Throughout the West, we've seen major actions taken on what is commonly being called the Transfer of Public Lands or TPL for short. With the lead taken by Utah, basically many of the western States, frustrated with Federal land management agency actions, are calling for the Federal government to turn these millions of acres of public lands over to the States, claiming that local management is far better than direction from D.C. Not withstanding the Constitutional legality of these attempts, the costs for fire fighting alone would quickly deplete many.

State coffers, with many citizens fearing the States will quickly sell off the most lucrative parcels or lease them for extractive developments, probably limiting access and recreational enjoyment. Fortunately there's been a groundswell of protests to these poorly thought out proposals and

surprisingly enough, many of these protests are the work of sportsmen, recreationists and others that understand and cherish the fact that our public

Federal lands belong to all Americans and not just residents of a particular state. A recent Colorado College bi-partisan poll reinforces these beliefs in almost every State where these antics have been proposed. I'm sure we've not heard the end of this misdirected effort and I would encourage all of our readers to make their opinions known to our State or Federal legislators that are

## 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](mailto:editor@azwildlife.org)



# REGIONAL ROUNDUP

**Region II - Tom Mackin**  
**Acting Regional Director**

Dec 1 – With another G&F volunteer we completed repairs to a FS trick tank that benefits wildlife and livestock in GMU7E

Dec 2 – With the Pres. Of Grand Canyon Chapter of Trout Unlimited we delivered needed items to Acorn Montessori School in Prescott Valley to start a Trout In The Classroom program at that location

Dec 3 – Attended a small group meeting on 4FRI FEIS and Draft ROD, reviewing Stakeholder concerns

Dec 4 – Attended a briefing from FS on 4FRI FEIS and DROD

Dec 5 – Attended a Roundtable discussion hosted by Rep.'s Kirkpatrick and Gosar discussing current issues and potential upcoming legislation

Dec 6 – Assisted with clean-up of AZGFD Region II yard area

Dec 7 – Visited new Arboretum display on climate change, sustainability and role of fire in ponderosa pine ecosystems, providing comments and suggestions

Dec 8 – Took a load of donated pipe to AZGFD Development Branch in Phoenix for use in construction of new wildlife water developments

Dec 9 – With two other volunteers we installed a new 5000 gallon water storage tank at Raymond Wildlife Area (RWA) and installed stays on approximately 200 yards of boundary fence

Dec 9 – Attended Board meeting of the Northern Arizona Shooting Foundation, the entity responsible for the operation of the AZGFD N. Az Shooting Range

Dec 11 – Attended the 4FRI Stakeholder meeting in Flagstaff discussing the FEIS and Draft ROD for Phase 1 of 4FRI, almost 1 million acres. Visited a new wood products processing plant near Williams and discussed its role in forest health

Dec 13 – Attended AWF Board meeting in Phoenix

Dec 15 – Met with AZGFD Game Planning Manager to purchase bird feed for use in trapping of wild turkeys on N. Rim later this winter. Funds provided by NWTF

Dec 16 – With another volunteer we completed fence repairs to boundary fence at RWA and rebuilt another fence surrounding a well site

Dec 17 – Met with AZGFD Habitat Specialist to discuss FS/AZGFD plans for wetland improvements at Marshall Lake,

Allen Lake and Duck Lake benefiting waterfowl, pronghorn and other game and non-game species

Dec 18 – Volunteered with AZGFD at the N. Az. Law Enforcement Toy Drive

Dec 30 – Met with representatives of AZGFD and Diablo Trust to discuss plans for grassland and water improvements on Diablo Trust lands, funded in part by the new USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Jan 5 – Chaired Diablo Trust Wildlife Committee meeting discussing plans for 2015 with representatives from NRCS, AZGFD, Diablo Trust ranches, Forest Service and other volunteers. Plans include grassland restoration, water developments, fencing modifications and possible use of prescribed fires

Jan 6 – Attended Board meeting of the Northern Arizona Shooting Foundation, the volunteer organization that operates the AZGFD Northern Arizona Shooting Range outside Winona, just east of Flagstaff, providing recreational shooting opportunities for members and the general public

Jan 7 – Attended small group 4FRI meeting to discuss comments on the FEIS and DROD for the first Phase of the 4FRI program

Jan 7 – Attended AZGFD training/certification on the operation of Bobcat skid steer powered front loader to be used on various habitat projects

Jan 8 – Attended Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience (AWWE) meeting to discuss 2015 plans with other partners

Jan 10 – With two other volunteers, visited AZGFD Raymond Wildlife Area to discuss improvements to well protection fences, hay barn and storage buildings

Jan 12 – Participated in NWF Conference Call discussing NWF leadership

Jan 12 – Met with two other AZGFD Hunter Ed Chief Instructors to schedule Hunter Ed classes/Field days for 2015 in the Flagstaff area

Jan 14 – Attended 4FRI Stakeholder Group(SHG) meeting in Snowflake to finalize SHG comments on 4FRI FEIS and DROD

Jan 14 – Attended Friends of Northern Arizona Forests(FoNAF) Board meeting discussing plans for 2015

including aspen protection, fence modifications for wildlife corridors and maintenance of Forest Service Drivers license certifications

Jan 15 – Participated in call with AWF VP regarding AWF leadership and possible participation in NWF leadership opportunities

Jan 17 – Along with several AWF Board members, attended the AZGF Commission Award Dinner, recognized as Conservationist of the Year

Jan 20 – Participated in NWF conference call discussing the Court ordered re-listing of wolves in the Great Lakes states

Jan 20 – Participated in a conference call with AWF Trophy Book committee members discussing plans for the 2015 Trophy Book

Jan 20 – Attended a Flagstaff City Council meeting advocating for a Resolution supporting the establishment of a National Conservation Area surrounding the Walnut Canyon National Monument with the goal of maintaining these open spaces and recreational opportunities while minimizing development

Jan 21 – Participated in a webinar with Audubon and Western Rivers Action Network discussing National related legislation and other actions

Jan 21 – Attended a meeting at Flagstaff AZGFD Regional Office with fellow volunteers that participate in the AZGFD Volunteer Wildlife Ranger program

Jan 22 – Attended the Coconino NRCD meeting, discussing activities and events planned for 2015, including the new RCPP program

Jan 24 – Attended the State HPC meeting at AZGFD HQ in Phoenix representing the Williams-Flagstaff LHPC

Jan 26 – With another volunteer, assisted in securing a hay barn at AZGFD Raymond Wildlife Area by building a wall to keep elk and other wildlife out

Jan 27 – Attended the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation meeting in Phoenix where AZGFC Chair Bob Mansell provided an update on activities

Jan 31 – Assisted with AZGFD Hunter Education class Field Day, graduating 26 students

Feb 1 – As a FoNAF volunteer, issued Back Country Wilderness Access permits at Arizona Snowbowl

Feb 3 – Attended Board meeting of the Northern Arizona Shooting Foundation, the operating entity for the AZGFD N. Az. Shooting Range

Feb 4 – Attended the joint meeting of the N. AZ. Flycasters/Grand Canyon Chapter of Trout Unlimited presentation on food sources at Lee's Ferry

Feb 5 – With another volunteer traveled to the AZGFD Raymond Wildlife Area to work on fencing around a well site providing water for bison and other wildlife

Feb 7 – Provided Range Safety Officer coverage at AZGFD N. AZ. Shooting Range

Feb 8 - As a FoNAF volunteer, issued Back Country Wilderness Access permits at Arizona Snowbowl

Feb 9 - With another volunteer traveled to the AZGFD Raymond Wildlife Area completing fencing around a well site providing water for bison and other wildlife

Feb 11 – Participated in webinar sponsored by Audubon and WRAN on Municipal Water Conservation measures in the Colorado River Basin

Feb 11 – Participated in conference call with TRCP, TU, AZSFWC on the Tonto NF Planning process, developing a list of sportsmen's values and concerns

Feb 12 – Traveled to Agua Fria N. M. to meet with

representatives from BLM, USFS, AZGFD, TNC and others for a field trip covering ancient agricultural practices and current monitoring procedures

Feb 12 – Attended meeting with AZGFD, local game processors and representative from Flagstaff Family Food center to discuss opportunities and procedures for distributing game seized by AZGFD

Feb 13 – With another volunteer traveled to an AZGFD water development in GMU9 to make repairs to a perimeter fence severely damaged by livestock, allowing livestock to drink water collected for wildlife consumption

Feb 16 – Once again with another volunteer we traveled to 6 important wildlife waters in G&F GMU 5BN, repairing two perimeter fences, performing general maintenance and measuring water levels in all 6

Feb 17 – Participated in a conference call with NWF Staff and representatives from several Great lakes and Northern Rockies Affiliates, discussing the recent legal action to once again list wolves as Endangered in the Great lakes states

Feb 18 – Attended a meeting in Flagstaff of the Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience (AWWE) committee discussing plans for 2015

Feb 20 – Attended the Diablo Trust Annual Meeting and participated in a panel discussion on Impacts Northern Arizona Ranches have on the Flagstaff Community

Feb 22 – Attended the ISE show in Phoenix

Feb 24 - Attended the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation meeting in Phoenix where AZGFD Legislative Liaison Jorge Canaca provided an update on legislative activities and issues

Feb 25 – Attended the 4FRI Stakeholders meeting, discussing plans for the next steps in the 4FRI process

Feb 26 – Attended the Coconino NRCD Board meeting and work session

Feb 27 – Attended a meeting to discuss the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument with representatives of the groups in favor of this proposal

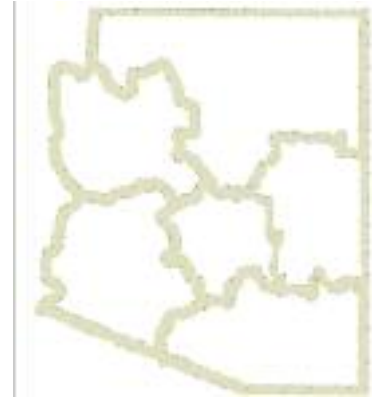


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### **WHADDA' YA' KNOW** (answers on page 21)

1. What percentage of land in Arizona is privately held?
2. What is the largest County in Arizona?
3. How many Federal wilderness areas exist in Arizona?
4. What was the last designated Wilderness area created in Arizona?
5. What is the largest Arizona Wilderness area? The smallest?



## **Coronado National Forest (CNF)**

### **Rosemont Mine ADEQ Press Release**

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality issued the final state environmental clearance for Rosemont Copper Mine. The state granted the mining company a conditional water quality certification for its proposed mine in the Santa Rita Mountains south of Tucson. The certification will allow the mining company to move some of the extracted dirt from its proposed open pit mine into nearby canyons.

A review is required by the federal government, said Linda Taunt, a technical adviser on water quality for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. "There's a section in the Clean Water Act that requires states to review federal permit applications or federal licenses to make sure that water quality standards are going to be protected," she said. ADEQ evaluated the plan for downstream runoff in a few of the watersheds in the Santa Ritas, Taunt said. "That's what we were looking at, is placing the waste rock and the tailings in those drainages," she said. "How is that going to impact the surface waters immediately downstream, and then most importantly Davidson Canyon and Cienega, which are outstanding Arizona waters, further downstream?"

"The certification is conditional because it will require Rosemont to make some changes to its plans," she said. One such condition is a restriction on dumping mine material into a watershed. "We believe with the conditions that we've included, that the downstream waters will be protected," Taunt said. If the mining operation violates the terms of the certification, it could be revoked. This state certification will be included with Rosemont's application for federal environmental clearance, known as a 404 permit, from the Army Corps of Engineers. "It doesn't really allow Rosemont to go out and do anything because they still need to get their 404 permit issued by the Corps," Taunt said.

### **Sunnyside-Alum Gulch Mining District Press Release**

On January 23, 2015, the U.S. Forest Service temporarily put the brakes on an environmentally hazardous mining project in southern Arizona's Coronado National Forest that it previously approved in August. The Forest Service's decision follows a similar move by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which had originally given the project the green light in August and then withdrew its approval in December. The agency decided to withdraw their approvals of the Canadian mining company Regal Resources Sunnyside Project based on the project's

potential violation of multiple environmental laws.

"The agencies knew from the beginning that this project could have a devastating impact on the local wildlife and habitat in this unique corner of the country," said Rob Peters of Defenders of Wildlife. "The Coronado is home to an incredible diversity of imperiled species like the jaguar, ocelot and yellow-billed cuckoo, all which are already at risk from multiple projects in the region." "No one understood why they approved this project to begin with, but for the sake of Patagonia's residents and wildlife, we are glad to see that they've reconsidered," added Peters.

In October, conservation groups Defenders of Wildlife and the Patagonia Area Resource Alliance filed a lawsuit claiming the federal agencies' approvals violated environmental laws and posed a threat to endangered species and the safety of drinking water for local residents.

"Sunnyside could have been a disaster not only for our region's unique wildlife, but also for the residents living directly downstream and the municipal watershed of the town of Patagonia," said Wendy Russell of the Patagonia Area Resource Alliance. "Projects like Sunnyside use and abuse a tremendous amount of the local water supply and create long-term destruction of wildlife habitat. The people and wildlife of our national forests deserve more, and the agencies know that."

## **Catalina Bighorn Restoration**

Arizona Game and Fish efforts continue to re-establish a viable population of 100 Desert Bighorn to the Catalina Mountains. A second release of 30 collared bighorn occurred in late November 2014. They joined a group of 12 surviving adults from the initial release of 30 bighorns in 2013. This effort is being monitored and assisted by a conservation committee of seven groups and includes two AWF Board members representing both the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and the Arizona Antelope Foundation as well as the AWF. As of this writing, lambing season is in full swing and currently a minimum of 10 new lambs have been born and observed, cautious optimism is being expressed by all parties.

## **SunZia Power Line Press Release**

Officials of the SunZia Transmission Project said January 29, 2015 that with federal approval in hand, they'll now turn their

efforts towards seeking state and local siting approvals in New Mexico and Arizona. U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was joined by members of New Mexico's congressional delegation and other federal officials to announce the government's approval of the \$2 billion SunZia project.

Supporters say the 515-mile-line cutting across south-central Arizona into New Mexico would help deliver more energy to the region and improve the reliability of the existing high-voltage regulatory grid. The dual power line proposal still needs permits from the Arizona Corporation Commission and the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. Tucson Electric Power Co. is backing the project. Opponents of the project, concerned particularly about its potential impacts on the San Pedro River Valley, say they'll fight the state permitting efforts and consider going to court to try to overturn the federal approval. They're also hoping that a lack of demand for power will sink the project.

Project officials say SunZia reached a number of milestones during its federal permitting efforts. Those include designation by the White House as one of only seven transmission projects in the country to receive accelerated permitting treatment, formal sponsorship by the New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority and initial agreement with Boston-based First Wind Energy to receive "anchor tenant" status.

SunZia will have additional announcements as other developments currently underway reach completion, the company said. "We are excited to reach this milestone and to be one major step closer to unleashing the renewable energy potential of the southwest and creating jobs," said Tom Wray, SunZia project manager. "Reaching an agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense to take measures to preserve and protect the current and future missions of the White Sands Missile Range was the final hurdle in this process and a huge accomplishment in itself. And none of this would have been possible without the exhaustive and thorough environmental review and analysis by the Bureau of Land Management," Wray said.

But opponents will consider challenging the adequacy of the federal environmental review of the project because they believe the high-voltage transmission line would destroy previously untouched wildlife habitat and disrupt primary wildlife migration corridors between the Galiuro and Catalina and Rincon Mountains.

"The final route selected by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would irreparably harm some of Arizona's most important natural and cultural resources and irreversibly damage a unique and important ecosystem," the Sierra Club and Cascabel Working Group said in a statement. "The damage that this project would do to Arizona's lower San Pedro Valley region cannot be justified given the questionable and unproved claims that this project is needed to promote renewable energy resources." Opponent Norm Meader of the Cascabel group acknowledged that stopping the SunZia permits won't be easy, and said the most powerful argument against it is that many California utilities won't need to buy more electric power anytime soon. "We don't think anyone will buy the power," said Meader, of Tucson, who is the Cascabel group's co-chair.

Ian Calkins, a SunZia spokesman, said the company expects to have more leverage in signing up customers now that it has a federal decision in hand, although it's difficult to say when it will have customers firmed up. "If there was a litmus test for every piece of energy infrastructure, to secure the contracts before you begin permitting efforts, there would be no infrastructure built, or almost none. That's not the way the world works," Calkins said.

Interior Secretary Jewell told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that New Mexico is blessed with sunshine and wind, but those resources will remain stranded unless investments are made in transmission infrastructure. "This is a sustainable industry that will create jobs," she said. "It's an opportunity really for the state to make an investment in a future that is not tied to commodity prices, the vagaries of oil and gas prices and the boom-and-bust cycle that is so prevalent in that industry." But U.S. Rep Steve Pearce, a New Mexico Republican whose congressional district includes the area where the transmission line would be, said the project will permanently damage national security. "Green-lighting the completion of SunZia along the chosen route is a reckless rush to judgment without thorough examination," Pearce said in a statement.

The federal Bureau of Land Management also granted a key federal permit for the project Saturday. SunZia received a "Record of Decision," which marks the end of an effort that started in May 2009.

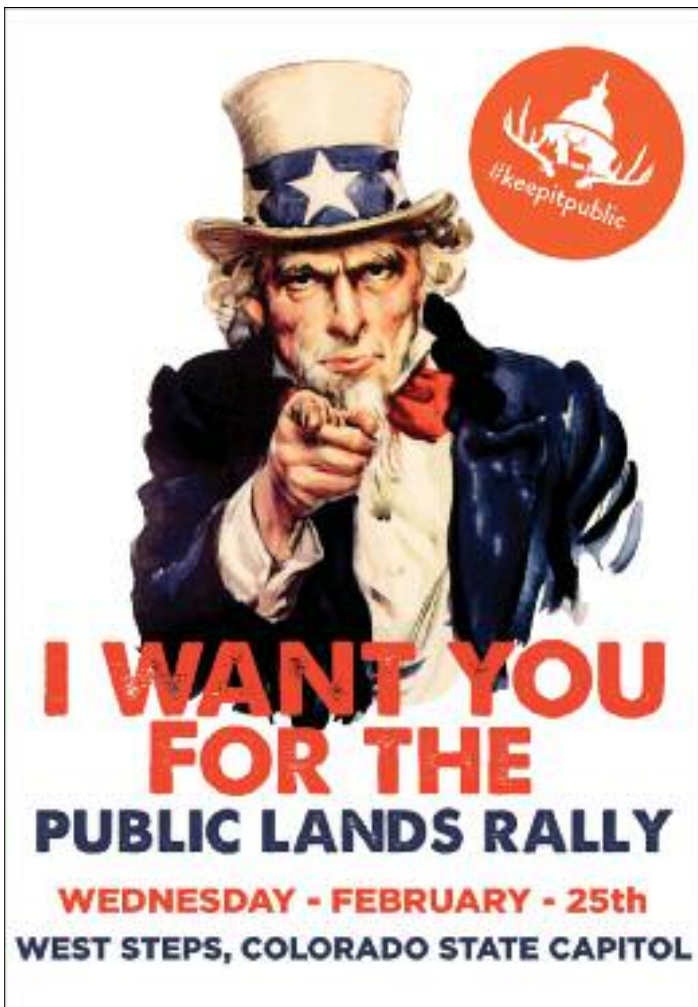
Concerns over the impact of the project on the White Sands Missile Range in southern New Mexico landed the project in limbo in 2013. In November, the Bureau of Land Management released its environmental review of a compromise reached with the Defense Department, calling for burying part of the line to avoid interfering with operations at White Sands. Officials were initially concerned the high-voltage line could reduce testing operations at the remote range and ultimately threaten national security.



**Secretary Sally Jewell at Sandia's National Solar Thermal Test Facility (NSTTF) Saturday, Jan. 24, to announce the approval of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project, a major infrastructure project for the American West.**

# Westerners join forces to keep public lands in public hands

By Meg Morris, National Wildlife Federation



**T**hroughout the West, state lawmakers have introduced bills or have proposals in the works to take over all or some of the national public lands within their boundaries. Some legislators are threatening to sue to claim the lands. Others are spending a lot of time and money to study the costs and benefits of assuming control of national public lands. They dodge arguments that state takeover of public lands – lands owned by all Americans – inevitably will lead to big sell-offs of the choicest parcels, many of which provide some of the best hunting, fishing and sightseeing in the country.

At the congressional level, some federal lawmakers have unleashed a flurry of proposals to speed up logging, mining and drilling of public lands, roll back safeguards for our wildlife, air and water and ignore the public will by choking off funding for conservation programs.

Grassroots organizations and community activists, including hunters, anglers, wildlife advocates and outdoor recreationists, have launched a campaign to stand up for public lands. The National Wildlife Federation and its affiliates in Arizona, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada are reaching out to lawmakers, the public and the media to make it clear that we want public lands to stay in public hands. The organizations are joining landowners, business people, community members and sportsmen and women to rally at state capitols, meet with lawmakers and share their personal stories about what public lands mean to them.

## There is a rumble in the Rockies

The New Mexico Wildlife Federation hosted the first rally in partnership with 18 other sportsmen organizations on January 29, 2015. More than 250 hunters, anglers, horseback riders, mountain bikers, hikers, boaters and other outdoors enthusiasts gathered at the New Mexico state capitol and shook the rafters in support of public lands and opposition to efforts that aim to transfer those lands to the state. New Mexico Wildlife Federation Executive Director Garrett VeneKlasen addressed the crowd, laying out the looming threats to public lands should these unpopular proposals move forward.

“The end game is simple. If enough western states support this absurd initiative, Congress could support a public lands sell-off. It’s that simple. In a single generation, this precious American birthright we call public lands could become a thing of the past,” VeneKlasen said.

Speaking at a February 12, 2015 rally that saw more than 200 sportsmen and public lands enthusiasts, Idaho Wildlife Federation Executive Director Michael Gibson described sportsmen’s biggest fears, “What we’re afraid of is that strain on the state budget is going to force the state to sell off our public lands.”

And the Montana Wildlife Federation and other groups had an organizing a rally February 16, 2015 at the state capitol in Helena where they asked people to sign a petition urging legislators to oppose takeover efforts. More than 500 people attended.

The NWF affiliates, whose members represent a cross section of the region’s population, provide personal stories about using public lands as well as their economic importance to small business owners. Many affiliate members are longtime hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers. Their ranks include wildlife biologists with years of experience in the field.



See [www.ourpubliclands.org/resources](http://www.ourpubliclands.org/resources) for links to fact sheets, reports, websites and other materials that can help as you follow the public lands debate.

*'These lands are our heritage. These lands are our birthright. These lands are a big part of what makes us Montanans, define who and what we are...While these public lands define who we are and are central to our quality of life, these lands also belong to the entirety of our country.'*

~ Montana. Governor Steve Bullock

Our public lands belong to all Americans. They make up the country's "big backyard" and are cherished by people nationwide. Public lands help support a \$646 billion outdoor recreation industry and sustain local economies across the region through hunting, fishing, recreation and tourism. They are habitat for some of the largest deer and elk herds in the nation and native trout whose genetics can be traced back centuries.

We are concerned that if states took over national public lands they wouldn't have the resources to manage them and some of the country's best fish and wildlife habitat and greatest landscapes would be sold to the highest bidders. That's why we're fighting to keep public lands public.



## Wilderness Act 50th Anniversary Editorial

By Ben Altenefer, AWF State Agency Liaison

Around the nation Americans are celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. But what many don't know is that the Act has become a wildlife debacle. Sportsmen and proponents of wildlife in Wilderness have come to recognize the failings of the Act and where it could be improved. Since 1964, there have been numerous congressional actions that have designated some of Arizona's most pristine public lands as Wilderness. This has brought with it positive and negative impacts to wildlife. As adjudications have risen following wildlife related court cases on Wilderness, it is clear that the intent of the Act has drifted. In fact, wildlife is not even considered a wilderness resource to some (Organic Act of 1964 mentions wildlife management only once stating it is the jurisdiction of the state). On this, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, it is time for some improvements to the Act.

Wilderness habitat regimes differ broadly in Arizona as well as the nation. The Organic Act and subsequent state acts have created inconsistencies in application of federal rule and law which continue to cause significant habitat degradation, wildlife management conflicts and in some cases have led to extirpation of wildlife from native areas.

Many times restrictions on wildlife management actions defy not only

common sense but sound wildlife management science and best management practices. BLM and other federal land management agencies many times propose Wildlife management actions and projects be moved outside of designated Wilderness to reduce issues with workload, time delay, or possible legal challenges.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has chronicled decades of wildlife management conflicts where Wilderness Act considerations are given more priority over sound wildlife management actions. In one instance, a gate constructed to be placed over the mouth of an open mine shaft in the Superstition Wilderness area that would allow for threatened bats to enter and exit while keeping the public safe was denied. In another incident, a game warden witnessing a wildlife violation landed a helicopter in a wilderness area resulting in a directive from the Forest Service mandating an extensive approval process prior to any more landings. Even more egregious was a decision to preclude a device in a stream to measure water flow in order to document potential state water rights for wildlife in the area. The device was determined to be mechanical and therefore not compatible with Wilderness. And these are only a few incidents....

Of utmost concern is the notion that wildlife, once threatened and endangered

and under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act, only then be allowed to be managed in a Wilderness setting with the limitations of the Act lifted. This ought not to be so; native wildlife species should not be brought to the brink of extinction before wildlife management actions be given priority over Wilderness Act mandates.

Sportsmen and wildlife conservationists are calling for improvements to the Act, including:

Wildlife, clearly recognized as a critical wilderness resource

Wildlife management is the sole jurisdiction of the state and any and all activities designed to protect, maintain and enhance wildlife populations and their habitat furthers the purpose of the Act

Utilizing certain mechanized equipment to sustain or enhance wildlife populations and maintain critical wildlife water catchments is paramount to the success of many wildlife species whose fragmented habitat places them in wilderness "vacuums" where the ability to move freely and gain access to important water/food sources is nonexistent

Combating fast moving wildfires, invasive species, disease and vectors using best management practices is important to ensuring a vibrant and healthy wildlife population and the integrity of the wilderness area in total.

*“Hunting and fishing in New Mexico are not sports. They’re a core cultural land-use value with a 10,000-year-old tradition. Cultural preservation in New Mexico is dependent upon access to vast, viable, public lands.”*

*~ Garrett VeneKlasen, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, Executive Director*

*“We need our elected officials to quit wasting time on these speculative, ideological proposals and instead take action on the common-sense, collaborative efforts under way all over the country to improve land management.”*

*~ David Chadwick, Montana Wildlife Federation, Executive Director*

# Transfer of Public Lands

Tom Mackin, AWF President

**W**hile the headlines in many newspapers, the evening news on TV and most Internet home pages are covering weather, basketball results, ISIS and other issues of interest, in the Legislative chambers of many Western states another topic is being discussed of very great interest to sportsmen, conservationists and others. This topic, which isn't getting a great deal of National news coverage, concerns the efforts by a small group of legislators to transfer many current Federally managed lands into the hands of the respective States.

These lands, owned by all the citizens of the United States and managed by several Federal agencies, primarily the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, have come to be seen by some legislators as the answer to many of their States woes, economic, educational, and commercial. These legislators, disappointed in the management of millions of acres by the Federal agencies, feel that turning over these lands and management to the individual States would be a panacea to all that ails their beleaguered States. Currently led most loudly by Utah, other western states with a high proportion of Federal lands have joined in the din and as a sportsmen, outdoor enthusiast and conservationist I find this effort especially troubling.

Much of the language proposed by these legislators is coming from boilerplates generated by the American Lands Council, an organization with backing from many extractive business entities. While these proposals tout benefits to the States including improved lands management, local decision making and broad economic opportunities currently being stifled by Federal regulations, once you look beyond these claims, you quickly see huge problems stemming from increased costs, lack of environmental safeguards, a long ramp up cycle and many others. Utah passed State legislation demanding the turnover of their Federal lands to the State by the end of 2014 and as you

can imagine, that did not come to pass but that hasn't toned down the proponents of these misguided efforts. Other States, not wanting to feel left out, have conducted studies similar to what Utah did and almost all have indicated that without major revisions to existing oil and gas royalties, timber markets and other revenue streams, State management would not be fiscally prudent. On top of these studies is the feeling by many legal and Constitutional experts that the States have no claim to Federal lands within their borders and any attempt to seize these assets would be unconstitutional and criminal.

A recent bi-partisan poll conducted by Colorado College indicates that a vast majority of citizens view these Federal lands correctly, belonging to all Americans for recreation, enjoyment, sustainable multiple uses and other beneficial activities to be used by all. Transfer to the States is viewed as the end of current accessibility, loss of a transparent, public process regarding land management planning and in all likelihood, the most desirable lands would quickly be sold or leased to the highest bidder for personal or commercial gain. Fortunately, many groups, both local and National, like the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Trout Unlimited and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, are speaking out against these proposals, with well attended rallies and demonstrations happening at many State capitals. The press in many of the Rocky Mountain States is starting to cover these events so the word is starting to spread and opposition is growing almost daily.

In conclusion, as the Colorado College poll quickly points out, for most Western residents, the opportunity to live a healthy outdoor lifestyle, with clean air and water, in an environment that supports this lifestyle, outranks economic opportunities by a significant margin. To see all the results please follow this link and be sure to express your thoughts and opinions to your legislators: <https://www.coloradocollege.edu/dotAsset/93bb7d1a-e288-4f9c-8e62-f6f0ddf03d00.pdf>

# Recreational Impacts of USFS and BLM Land Sell-off in Arizona

**What is the problem?** Many Western states are considering legislation that would request transfer of national public land to the states, most likely to be managed as state trust lands. Due to the trust mandate to generate revenue, the costs of management, and the necessity of balancing the state budget, it is fair to assume that the acquired lands would be sold off to the highest bidder or managed to generate the maximum revenue possible. This would limit the public's access to the lands for hunting, fishing and other recreational opportunities.

**State Trust Land Management in Arizona.** The Arizona State Land Department has the responsibility to manage 9.2 million acres for maximum revenue and would be responsible for an additional 23.4 million acres if Federal land was transferred. Grazing, agriculture, mining, sale and lease of the land as well as the sale of natural resources are permitted on state trust land. Nearly all state trust lands have at least one lease on them for natural resource or commercial development.



What could happen to **your** recreational access if Federal lands were held by the Arizona State Land Department?

### Current Federal Land Access

- Dispersed camping is allowed (no more than 14 days in one spot)
- No permits or fees required for access (except in a few fee areas)
- Fires allowed in designated rings and in constructed fire rings
- Firewood collection for personal use is allowed with permit
- Hunting and fishing allowed with the appropriate state license

VS

### Current State Land Department Access

- Recreational permit is required to camp, hike or travel on state lands
- If caught on state land without a permit, there is a fine.
- State trust land is not public land and it is considered trespassing if caught without a permit

\* The above rules are a general description of access. It is up to the recreationalist to know and follow all posted rules before using the land by reading posted signs or contacting the appropriate management agency to learn more.

# Conservation: The Next Generation

By Terry T Clapp



Photo courtesy of Terry T. Clapp

**I**n 1910, a great champion for the next generation of conservation President Theodore Roosevelt said, “The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased and not impaired in value.”

I have faith that we as a nation will follow President Roosevelt’s lead in conservation as we move forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. However, our 20<sup>th</sup> Century behavior I’m sure would be of grave concern to President Roosevelt. Efforts to control urban and rural sprawl fell short and habitat loss was the victim. After this first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the challenges to conservation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will be many and not the least of which will be the continued serious loss and degradation of habitat as well as the unknown consequences of Global environmental issues. What behaviors can we, must we change or modify to add value to our natural resources?

Who will become the great champion of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century for

the next generation of conservation in your state as well as in America? Will it be you, or me, or all of us together? Will it be the rich and powerful or the meek and lowly or all of us together? Who is the next generation of conservation? These are they who hunt, fish and walk in nature.

## Based On The North American Model For Conservation: Here is What I Believe:

1. *I believe that our natural resources and our experiences in nature connect all mankind together in feelings of joy for the beauty of the natural world. It is awareness of and sensitivity to that beauty that unities us for the next generation of conservation.*

**Why I believe it:** The awe and joy seen in a small child’s smile as they splash water out of every puddle of water they can get their feet or hands in. It’s as small as that or as large as The Grand Canyon.

2. *I believe the mental and physical well being of all mankind suffers if we do not provide a quality environment for all wildlife for the next generation of conservation.*  
**Why I believe it:** Because I have felt the firm wet sand of an Ocean Beach beneath my feet. On that beach have I seen evidence of life in a world that is ours, yet still a little beyond ours and it fills me with a sense of reverence for all things living.
3. *I believe that hunting, fishing, and trapping has great historical significance in American History. The continued use of these activities within the bounds of current laws and by the use of licenses, fees, and taxes on sporting goods are critical to the management of wildlife resources and to the next generation of conservation.*  
**Why I believe it:** Proper wildlife management restoration efforts financed primarily by hunting and fishing licenses revenues and in some places special taxes for conservation have brought back: Whitetail Deer, Wild Turkey, Elk, Bison and numerous other game and non-game species to huntable and viewable populations all while expanding habitat. Many once threatened and endangered species now along with their habitat thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
4. *I believe that all responsible officers of government and every responsible citizen must design, support, and maintain measures that insure the conservation of all our lands, water, and wildlife resources. Without effective stewardship of our natural resources great calamities may befall the next generation of conservation.*  
**Why I believe it:** Observation of the impact of the loss and degradation of habitat surrounds us in rural settings as well as urban settings. Although I can't see or measure many of the negative variables that have immediate impact on my local and national environment I know they exist. Therefore, I support positive efforts by government agencies and informed citizen organizations to conserve all of our natural resources and provide conservation leadership.
5. *I believe that governments, private landowners, and individual citizen steward by partnering together will find that no task looms too large for the next generation of conservation.*  
**Why I believe it:** Successful restoration of habitat, as well as wildlife has been taking place throughout America with the cooperation and partnerships between private landowners, non-profit foundations, citizen stewards, state and federal agencies.
6. *I believe that every citizen (especially our children) should be able to step into nature with their entitlement of clean air, pure water, teeming wildlife, and landscapes open and free for the next generation of conservation.*  
**Why I believe it:** Because that is the heritage that every American has been endowed with and it is the legacy we must leave for the next generation of conservation.
7. *I believe that just as diversity is important in society so it is that biodiversity is of greatest importance for the next generation of conservation.*  
**Why I believe it:** Because I have seen a doodlebug, a cocklebur, and beggar lice.
8. *I believe that knowledge, conservation education, science, and the best practices of management of habitats including waters, land and wildlife will be key for the next generation of conservation.*  
**Why I believe it:** Because U.S. Wildlife Agencies along with state wildlife resources agencies and other concerned groups are providing continued formal scientific research based approaches for conservation efforts. Developing new approaches, cooperative efforts beyond agency boundaries and expanding partnerships for more effective integrated conservation efforts should be at the forefront of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation efforts. Conservation of our natural resources should not be restrained by artificial boundaries and barriers.
9. *I believe that I have a responsibility of stewardship for the natural resources in my home, yard, city, state and nation for the next generation of conservation.*  
**Why I believe it:** Example, example, I should do only those things that I would have my children do. Be a mentor for nature.
10. *I believe in the economy of nature and that inquiry into the wonders of our natural world provides not only our greatest insights but also the greatest hope. Our most significance learning, inspiration, and healing will come from Mother Earth for the next generation of conservation.*  
**Why I believe it:** Nothing in nature seems to be wasted. Everything in nature seems to fit and have a purpose. There is some great nature operational action plan in force. Mankind continues to struggle in the identification of the role it plays in Nature's Action Plan. However, I'm sure we along with wildlife and other natural resources are all a part of that plan.

## **We are the Next Generation of Conservation**

My beliefs do not represent a lone voice in the wilderness but are built upon a foundation of conservation principles that I see an informed citizenry giving their full support. My beliefs are not new but deeply rooted in the history of our great nation as noted by President Roosevelt's remarks one hundred years ago. I believe that by our united participation and involvement in conservation efforts no task or challenge looms too large for us, the champions of conservation for the next generation. We who hunt, fish and step into nature are the champions of conservation. Hunting is our heritage. Conservation is our service. Nature at it's best is our legacy.



by Linda Dightmon

**C**hamber of commerce weather, a picturesque venue and lots of hard work from volunteers came together to make the beginning of our 20<sup>th</sup> year one to remember.

“Everyone talks about, but no one does a thing about...the weather.” Seems every winter there is one nasty rainy weekend and unless you are clairvoyant, the rain X-factor, can really wreak havoc on careful planning. This year the rain appeared smack dab in between two BOW events and RAINED on Super Bowl weekend. Now, we don’t want to hee hee too much about that because the weather gods will be back next winter but... geez...how fortunate we were! The BOW Deluxe weekend was just perfect with 70+ degrees and the Coordinator conference weekend just a tad bit warmer! The ladies coming from the tundra for the conference had a nice mid-winter break.

lots of fun with the new 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo. It was great to see the venue’s staff sporting the new shirts.

There is no way to properly thank the backbone of the program. Our volunteer instructors are all top notch professionals that give us their free time and their talent year after year. Many thanks go out to Jean Groan, Barb Kennedy, Vera Walters, Bill Larson, Stan and Danette Schepers, Kathy Greene, Mark Hullinger, Brian Mazoyer and his flyfishing posse. I have to mention my friend Amanda Moors, she once again pulled my fat out of the fire! It simply could not be done without these folks!

John O’Dell’s class was too much fun. His theory to bring more small game hunters into the field is to start at the end and work backwards. And it works. The small game class dined on squirrel tacos and jackrabbit loin while he talked about the techniques used to hunt them. He also skinned and prepared duck parmesan and duck quesadilla for everyone to taste.

The Saturday morning birding class compiled an impressive list in three hours. They found thirty three species of water birds, raptors and LBB’s (little brown birds). The landscape photography classes raved all weekend about their experience with new instructor Lisa Langell.

On Friday night, we all met Hunter. He is the resident bobcat at Adobe Mountain. This was Hunter’s first night-time appearance in public. BOW was honored to be the test group for this important step. And except for the occasional growl he was well behaved. What a beautiful animal. The participants were delighted to be so close to a wild predator. We all wish Hunter a long career educating the public.

For the first time in the history of the BOW deluxe we were able to pull off a sky watching activity. In the past there was rain or clouds or something happening that foiled our efforts. Jan Weaver of the *Astronomers of the Verde Valley* set up her telescope Saturday night. With no cloud cover to mar our view, she had a steady stream of wannabe astronomers seeing their



Instructor John O’Dell has a cottontail and a Jackrabbit loin



**BOW DELUXE**

The workshop was held at Saguaro Lake Ranch on January 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>. We used every room at the ranch with 40 participants attending. Board member, Glen Dickens, wanted to see what the program was all about. He attended the optics class, a couple of campfires and seemed to be soaking it all up. It was great to see him there. We had



2015 Coordinator's Conference Delegates

first close up of the universe. She dialed up the comet Lovejoy for all of us to see. We also viewed the planet Jupiter and its four big moons, Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto. There was also a great view of our own moon that night. Many thanks go out to Jodi Latimer, AWF BOD member for the connection. Maybe the weather gods will smile again in 2016 for a return of Jan and her telescope.

### **BOW COORDINATOR'S CONFERENCE**

Arizona hosted a coordinator's conference February 4<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>. We had 21 delegates from across the country plus 4 representing Arizona. The state of Alaska sent five people, however this giant state has three separate BOW programs. The other states represented were California, Arkansas, Maryland, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, New Hampshire, New York, Montana, North Carolina, Florida and South Dakota. It was held at Saguaro Lake Ranch and as mentioned before the weather cooperated nicely. Whew...as there was LOTS of pressure from my peers to be sure and thaw them out a little. I gotta tell ya, I was just a little worried.

We found the biggest challenge to be the logistics of transportation. Shuttles to the airport, (flights change a lot in the winter) and even getting 25 people just a few miles to Saguaro Lake and back was a little tricky. But, it all worked out and with this understanding group, speed bumps were ignored.

Our goal was to show off the Sonoran desert and that we did! Everyone went on a tour of Saguaro Lake via the *Desert Belle*. Wildman Phil gave his unique presentation on some of the creepier desert fauna. Road trip morning consisted of three choices: Old town Scottsdale, Boyce Thompson or the Apache Trail. The majority chose the Apache Trail. For the BOW outdoor adventure, the coordinators could choose the trail ride, fishing on Saguaro Lake, kayaking at Butcher Jones or hiking the Bulldog Cliffs. Most went kayaking. Tracy Smith is a habitat biologist for the division of sport fish in Alaska. She went fishing on Saguaro and lake and caught a new species, a channel catfish.

Gratis from Leupold and Steven's and Cabela's each delegate received a set of 10 X 42 McKinley binoculars and a

hydro pack. We wanted to be sure everyone stayed hydrated while checking out our desert vistas.

But there was a lot of work to be done. There was over 16 hours of working sessions built into the agenda. One of the most important for Arizona was the state reports. This is where we find out what is working or not working in other states. This is where we steal concepts, modify if needed to make our program better. We also discussed social media and how best to incorporate this powerful tool. A big part of the working agenda was recruitment and retention. Since most BOW coordinators work for a state agency, this is a big part of their job.

There are some big challenges in the wind as departments tighten budgets and move toward 'gender neutral' programs. But BOW has been around for 23 years and if you are a betting person put your money in for another 20 years. The group of women that met at Saguaro Lake Ranch last month are smart, strong and determined.

There are two more workshops to mark our 20th year. The April workshop is filling fast with 80 participants signed up to date. That leaves only 20 more spots! We will also have an instructor appreciation event. Dates for the fall workshop are September 11th-13th. Don't miss out!



Tracy Smith

# ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATIONS 92'ND ANNUAL MEETING

The Arizona Wildlife federation announces its 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting and Awards event, June 6-7, 2015. We would like to invite you to join us at our meeting marking 92 years of continuous work for wildlife. The location will be announced soon.

Affiliates it's time to think about delegates, getting your membership records updated, and resolutions you'd like to present or candidates for office you'd like to nominate. Information and instructions on requirements and activities will be arriving in your e-mail soon.

The usual business meeting will be taking place, including elections, resolutions, and a post-annual board of directors meeting. Beyond that we plan to have enjoyable speakers, great camaraderie and the provision of some "kickback" time for your enjoyment.

## WE ARE SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE AWF ANNUAL AWARDS

### AWF 92<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING CONSERVATION AWARDS & CRITERIA

#### The Thomas E. McCulloch Memorial Award - Professional

For The Most Outstanding Overall Effort And Achievement, Or Most Significant Contribution To The Cause Of A Major Conservation Issue Or Project In The State During The Period By A Professional Individual Acting Within The Capacity Of Their Respective Career Field. This Effort Can Be In Any Field Of Natural Resource Management, Including The Enhancement And Preservation Of Natural Beauty, Etc. The Individual May Also Be Nominated In A More Specific Category.

#### The Thomas E. McCulloch Memorial Award - Non-Professional

For The Most Significant Contribution To The Cause Of A Major Conservation Issue Or Project During The Period; Or For A Lifetime Of Conservation Efforts In The State By A Non-Professional. This Effort Can Be In Any Field Of Natural Resource Conservation, Including The Enhancement And Preservation Of Natural Beauty, Fish, Wildlife, Or Habitat, Etc. The Individual May Also Be Nominated In A More Specific Category.

#### Patti Ho Lifetime Achievement Award

For The Most Significant Contribution Of Service To The By An

Individual During The Tenure Or Tenure's Of Service Within The Ranks Of The Organization. This Effort Should Be Those Duties Relating To Office, Board Of Directors, Committees, Or Special Projects Wherein The Efforts Evolved Significant Dedication, Change, Or Direction Of Involvement In Issues, Policies, Or Procedures, Which Enhanced The Operation, Status, Finances, And Performance Of The Federation And Collaborative Efforts With Awf And Its Supporters.

Each Winner Must Be Truly Deserving Of Recognition, If There No Nominees Or Outstanding Nominees In A Category, An Award Will Not Be Given.

Members And Clubs Who Would Like To Make Nominations Should Contact The AWF Office For Further Information About Nomination Procedures And Deadlines For Submittal.

Watch For Further Communiques From Our Office That Will Include Location, Directions And A Map, An Agenda, And Other Information Relating To Our Annual Meeting. For More Information, You May Contact Kimberlee Kreuzer At 480-644-0077.

## AWF Board Members Receive Awards at the Arizona Game & Fish Commission Awards Banquet

photo credit:George Andrejko



Conservationist of the Year - Tom Mackin



Conservation Organization of the Year - Catalina Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction Advisory Committee (includes BOD members - Glen Dickens and Trica Oshant Hawins)



# TROPHY BOOK

## For the Record Book

By Bill Keebler

The 2015 Arizona Wildlife Trophy record book is being worked on and should be available in the Fall of this year. The theme for the articles in this book is Arizona wildlife organizations, past and present. The deadline for entries to be included in this book is May 1, 2015.

Turkeys will be a new addition to this record book. From now until the deadline for this book turkey entries will be accepted with the \$20.00 entry fee waived. The minimum for entry is a combined length of spurs of 1 ¾ inch. The length of the beard or beards will be added to the length of the spurs for the final score. Turkey score sheets are available on the Arizona Wildlife Federation web site under Trophy Book at [www.azwildlife.org](http://www.azwildlife.org).

Each year there is an annual competition. All entries received by May 1 following the calendar year the animal is taken are automatically entered in the competition. Entries received after the May 1st deadline are not eligible for the annual competition but will still be entered into the next record book. The annual competition award is awarded only to outstanding trophies in each category at the discretion of the Arizona Wildlife Trophies committee. Also any number of honorable mention awards can be awarded in each category. The annual competition award winner receives a bronze award, so titled because it is a bronze medallion of the animal taken presented in a shadow box.

For 2013, there were ten bronze awards presented. The 2013 Annual

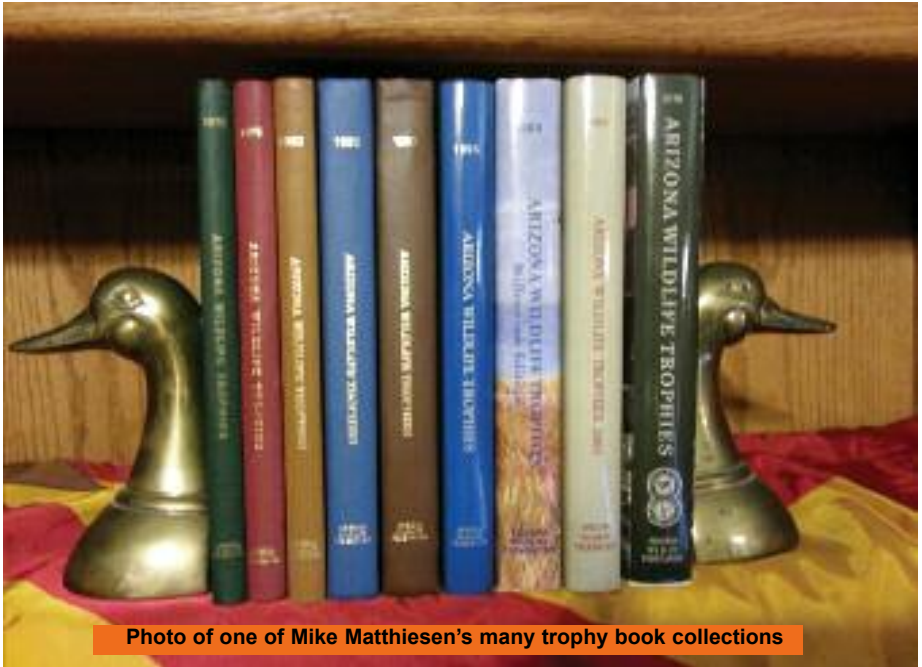


Photo of one of Mike Matthiesen's many trophy book collections

Competition winners who received Bronze Awards were Len Goldman for his 91 6/8 pronghorn, Andy Hampton for his 111 2/8 typical Coues' deer, Richard MacMillan for his 129 2/8 non-typical Coues' deer, Manual Huerta for his 183 4/8 typical mule deer, Charlie Hatch for his 393 6/8 typical elk, Carl Luedeman for his 182 4/8 desert bighorn sheep, Marvin James for his 185 3/8 Rocky Mountain sheep, Sandra Rice for her 110 bison, Dorothy L. Donnelly for her 14 9/16 javelina and James Pomfret for his 21 black bear. There were five honorable mention awards presented.

The Arizona Wildlife Trophies Record Book has been published every five years since 1970 by the Arizona Wildlife Trophies Committee of the Arizona Wildlife Federation. This will be the tenth edition. The 2010 edition is still available. The requirement for trophy entries, minimum scores and a list of measurers are on the Arizona Wildlife Federation web site at [www.azwildlife.org](http://www.azwildlife.org). The price of the 2010 Trophy Record Book is \$45.00. The 2010 edition and some other past editions can be ordered from the web site or you can call Kim at 480-644-0077.

## ARIZONA WILDLIFE TROPHIES 2015

By Mike Matthiesen

Another edition of Arizona Wildlife Trophies will be out soon and I am anxious to add it to my collection. I have been collecting these books for more than 20 years and put together a sizeable collection of more than 100 books. No small task! The books in my collection have come from near and far and I can just imagine the journey they have been on and ultimately came full circle and end up back in Arizona.

The First edition has 141 pages. By the time the 2010 edition was printed it had grown to 429 pages. Forty five years of documenting the outstanding trophy animals which reside in Arizona mixed with historical facts and stories.

Sadly many of the early Trophy Book Committee members are deceased but their hard work, dedication and passion lives on between the covers of these books. Their effort in the beginning with the 1970 edition provided the template that is still used today. These impressive volumes are the gold standard for Arizona Wildlife Trophy records.



# Historical Tales

*Reproduced by Ryna Rock from AGPA Arizona Wildlife Sportsman, March 1947*

## THE GREAT LAND GRAB

By William H. Carr

When a small group of individuals seek to grasp large tracts of public land for private and commercial use, it seems that the matter should be investigated by the persons who own the property—the taxpayers of the affected State and of the Nation. There is a move on foot in Arizona and in several nearby regions to acquire millions of acres of our public land, ostensibly for State possession. Congressional bills have been drafted to legalize this procedure and proponents of the measure have traveled throughout the territory urging various organizations to pass resolutions favoring it. The vast majority of the people, who would lose tremendously by any such change, have not been informed concerning the real significance of the proposals. As a resident of Arizona, I cannot stand by and watch this acquisition program go forward in my state, without offering a protest and a challenge.

I was invited to debate the issue "Federal Versus State Ownership of Lands in Arizona" on the University of Arizona Round-Table Radio Forum in Tucson on December 9, 1946. My opponents were the State Land Commissioner of Arizona and the Vice President of the Arizona Cattlegrowers Association. One thing I learned was that the very title of the debate was in error. The word "State" should have been omitted. I had been led to believe that the movement to acquire our public lands was a State project; that the land, if ceded by the Federal government, would revert to the State of Arizona. In answer to an forum inquiry regarding this point, I was told freely that the proposed move was but the initial step in *private ownership*. Immediately flashed through my mind: 'If the lands are to in the end be privately owned, what of the small land holders, grazing permittees, sportsmen, picnickers, and thousands of others involved in endless ways in this scheme; what of them?'

I began to debate and to ask questions as earnestly as I could, for it was two against one. In replaying the transcript of the broadcast, I understood why afterwards I received a

number of phone calls from total strangers offering to help in any "battle" that could be waged to forestall this projected land acquirement. One person had come to Arizona as a homesteader and had witnessed the early land abuses. She wanted to do whatever she could to forestall any move that would expose the region to private greed and subsequent destruction once again.

**The records repeatedly show that the gentlemen who opposed me were seeking not State ownership, but ownership by the few**—and I emphasize this statement for it should be clearly understood. This bold declaration astounded me for I had considered that State possession of these lands would be bad enough. The idea of private ownership of some of the most wonderful national forests in all America was overwhelming and unthinkable for numerous reasons.

The Land Commissioner said, "We only want the lands in the national forests that are usable for grazing purposes." As a matter of fact practically every inch of national lands in Arizona from the highest mountains to the desert are now grazed and, in many instances, overgrazed.

I asked the Commissioner whether he fought the people of Arizona, at their own expense, could maintain for unique multiple use the national lands as scientifically as the taxpayers of the entire Nation. I said I did not believe that this State or any State could secure sufficient funds to adequately support the necessary research, operation, development, and maintenance of these regions. It could have been added that tourists from the entire country contribute more than 60 million dollars annually to Arizona business operations, largely thanks to Federally sponsored improvements and facilities in the various scenic and recreational spots. The Commissioner blandly remarked that the State could do a far better job. However, he did not say with what funds or how it could be done, especially if the lands were owned by the privileged few.

Without hesitation, the stockman said that large cattle

companions would eventually secure the lands, once an acquisition bill had passed in Congress. He stated that history had shown only the large cattle outfits could make a "satisfactory income" and, as a consequence, the "little fellow" had been forced out while the large groups had bought up or otherwise used the lands. I recalled that cattle wars had been fought over this very proposition. He was all in favor of monopolistic cattle companies and thoughts or desires or rights of persons other than stockmen never entered his head. He seemed totally unaware of the enormous stake that the people as a whole have in this problem—people from all over the country as well as Arizonans. Neither he nor the Land Commissioner had anything to say regarding the question: Would the people of the State and Nation be attracted to our outstanding regions of scenic and recreational value if the Federal government had not developed them at great expense and maintained them for public as well as commercial use?

It was here that the Commissioner put up considerable of a smoke screen labeled "States Rights". We wished the State to have all the rights it could acquire and we knew that one certain way to deny many of these same vital rights would be to take over the wholly impractical financial burden of operating the public lands when we are now able to obtain so much help from all the people. It would seem that Arizona has more financial headaches than we can cure right now, and this matter of securing added land without machinery to operate it, and no funds to obtain the machinery, is nothing short of a fatal policy. There is an immensely practical as well as a political consideration in this brand of States' Rights wherein the welfare of the public is concerned. States' Rights, in this instance, really mean more rights and power and privilege in the hands of a few. This is especially true when one considers that the ultimate goal is private ownership.

There have been hungry eyes on on this public property for a long time. The great voiceless groups most affected by any scheme to change ownership of those lands are the majority of the people. They are not aware of all that is involved. To date they have been informed only by highly vocal pressure groups, men who wish to dictate the land policy of the United States. Those who have spearheaded this drive and are the prime movers in the entire matter, for the reason that they stand, or think they stand, to benefit financially.

Representatives of special interests have pushed this campaign from the start in an effort to influence various civic bodies to support proposals. There has often been no effort to hear the other side of the story, with resolutions railroaded through. Organizations that now cry for return of the public domain include powerful interests from the East, only too anxious to gain control for financial "killings". Arizona would lose its birthright (speaking of "States Rights") if it gave up its land to a selfish few.

An anguished howl was shortly raised about "Bureaucrats and more Bureaucrats!" While that is frequently true, we weren't discussing Bureaucrats—we were talking about Arizona public land, its condition, and who should have the rights to it. Then the State-employed commissioner complained bitterly about "that Foreign Government in Washington". I remembered that many boys and men and women died in a war scarcely concluded and many wars before that, for this same "Foreign Government". I also thought about the 16 million dollars that the Government had spent in national forests alone in this State, to say nothing of the additional millions for endless reclamation projects, for

reservoirs, and other objectives that have so greatly aided in making the State what it is and have resulted in untold good to thousands. In reality the "States Rights" cry was a shout for freedom from any and all central governmental management and actually a bid for added personal power for the few. It is unthinkable that we should contemplate relinquishing some of the potentially best land we possess, in order to pad the pockets of private interests. Many who seek this Arizona land have repeatedly demonstrated their complete inability to husband it wisely.

The State official commented bitterly upon the sum total of lands operated by the government at Federal expense. He referred to a comparison between Eastern and Western States in this respect. Eastern States have been inhabited by *enough* people and *enough* interests to demand the State governments heed the welfare of all and not cater to the special requests of the few. This is particularly apparent wherein the ownership of land is concerned. Steps have long since been taken to prevent the very folly that the Commissioner advocates whereby a small, prejudiced group seeks to gain large parcels of public property for their own exclusive use. To date the Federal, not the State government, has prevented this abuse of the people's land rights in Arizona and in other Western States. As a matter of record, the Federal government does own and manage large areas in the East, in regions where the population is not great, for the same basic and sound reasons that concern all states: *to protect and guarantee the heritage of all the people from the insatiable desire for land on the part of the few who are oblivious to public welfare and future fundamental needs of American as a whole.*

If private individuals or the "State" should succeed in getting control of the national lands it would soon result in ruination, now as in the past. It should always be remembered that the land itself is the thing; the land, the soil, the ground cover, the wildlife and all that it represents to all the people. When I pointed out to the Commissioner the deplorable condition presently controlled by the State his only comment was that "We have our plans for it". He did not say what the plans were but repeated that the State could manage far better than the Federal Government. The condition of the terrain now controlled by the State hardly bears out this contention nor could it offer a better example of what would happen to the rest if it were to fall to similar auspices.

The Stockman stated that private control would result in betterment of the land, this despite the fact that the Government had first taken over the ruined areas in order to rehabilitate them after they had been almost irreparably damaged by destructive use in many sections where there was private or unrestricted operation. The Land Commissioner said that similar ruination could never happen again. How he could make such a statement in the face of what is going on today is a mystery to me. Certainly our Department of Agriculture has repeatedly demonstrated that it is by far a more permanent and better equipped institution than any similar agency possessed by individual States. This Department is the best research group of its kind in the world and is so recognized throughout the world; why not by those who would acquire this land? What assurance will the people have that future State politics will not permit graziers and timber operators to permanently ruin the regions without a semblance of adequate control and constant study that has resulted in so much good? There are places where the Federal land is in bad shape too, largely through the

fault of certain Government administrators who have permitted their work to be hampered through the persistent, unwarranted influence of State politics and Big Business (which amounts to the same thing).

The people should give solid support to conscientious administrators who endeavor to manage the land in strict accordance with scientific principles, regardless of political pressure. The position of Federal administrators are anything but enviable in the face of constant efforts on the part of special interests to gain exclusive privileges. The unfortunate appeasement has only served to embolden these pressure groups in their present attempt to gain permanent control of nation public lands.

In reality there was one main question here, one that should be asked again and again, and that question is: Would the land, now and in the future, be better areas for and more lastingly preserved under "State" or Federal management? Component parts of this same inquiry would include two more questions: Would the great amount of erosion and other forms of land destruction be worse or better? What policy would result in the greatest good to the greatest number of people? There can be but one answer: The only adequate agency to operate these priceless lands is the Government of all the people, with its vast resources. Could this State or any other State ever hope to duplicate the advantages accruing to it that would ever equal the aid provided by our National Government?

I asked my opponents the following questions and again received highly unsatisfactory answers: How about the construction of roads and other endless improvements on public lands such as reservoirs, recreational and range improvements, and many other types of improvements costing the taxpayers of the National millions upon millions of dollars, and incidentally providing employment for thousands of Arizonans and future Arizonans? Would the State have been able to pay for all this, for the tremendous reclamation and irrigation construction, or for the Colorado River project now advocated? Could Arizona residents pay for and support all of these things that have helped to bring the State to its present stage of prosperity? And yet it is urged that many of these regions and consequent all the expense involved in their upkeep, maintenance, and future development be turned over to the State! It seems incredible!

Among other considerations it is only too apparent that the State is having plenty of financial difficulty in paying teachers and professors adequate wages. It has been declared that if all these millions of acres of publicly owned lands belonged to private individuals, the teachers would be better taken care of! How? Taxes that could be levied upon these lands would not suffice to maintain improvements extant, not unless the present tax rate were greatly increased. In addition to initial and other outlays, the Federal government turns back to the State large sums of money annually for school districts, for maintenance of schools within those districts, for continued road and trail building, added telephone line construction and maintenance, fire fighting, the development of winter sports areas, forest camps, soil and water control, and other public service projects in counties where parcels of land are Government supervised. Could the State obtain all of this money and greatly added sums too in order to raise teacher's salaries or any other salaries? The economic reasoning that is entertained by the few who sponsor this land turn-over scheme, is so completely unsound and unrealistic that one wonders how their

conclusions were reached! I wanted to know about the other resources as well for these are fundamental national resources, not merely local political pawns! The truth of the matter is that many private owners have only too often demonstrated their ability to ruin forest areas and then, when the damage has been done and the lands are all but worthless, the Federal Government is asked to step in, take over the wreck, and rehabilitate the depleted regions over long periods of years, at great national expense. The Federal Government took over the management of the areas originally when a group of farseeing Americans, headed by Theodore Roosevelt, saw what was happening to the region through abuse and stepped in to preserve it and make it productive once again. That was some 40 years ago. This is a vicious circle and there is no sense in it or justification either, not the slightest. This is a vital matter and not one to be handled by inexperienced or seeking hands.

I also asked about the general tax paying public in the event these same national lands were allotted to individuals. What about where Federal funds were spent to enable *all* the people to take advantage, freely, of the endless opportunities for recreation in Arizona's mountains through road building? What about the thousands who travel away from the summer-time desert heat to escape to these and other places? Will these people be able or willing to pay for services when the land is commercially exploited? Will they have any sense of freedom in these forests at all? Will they be free, as they are now, to ski and to picnic or just to stand and enjoy the charm of the place, knowing that, actually, they, themselves own it? Will they, when "Private" and other restrictive signs dot the landscape? As things now stand, sportsmen manhunt and fish almost everywhere on national lands. Demands of wildlife are actively recognized as a part of the management of public lands. What will happen here under private ownership? Everyone should be grateful that our Government secured these lands for the use and enjoyment of all of us.

In answer to these queries regarding the status of the public upon national lands, in the event they are ceded, the Stockman replied that there are a number of potential bills intended to guarantee these rights. For my part, I fail to see how any of these "bills" could apply if the lands were privately owned. Throughout the length and breadth of this country there is no "bill" that guarantees rights and privileges to outsiders on private lands; quite the reverse is true. I believe that Arizona is one of the most fortunate of all States where national financial resources, far beyond the dreams of anyone, have been lavishly poured into this State to help make it what it is—one of the most wonderful places to live on this earth. Those who plan to experiment with this hard-won, established Federal assistance in a senseless attempt to secure public lands, should be made to realize that they have tackled a buzz saw! There is no room for private or "State" acquisition here, where there is so much that involves public interest and welfare. I, for one, fail to see why any one group or special interest are of more consequence to the community than citrus growers, agriculturists in general, or of hunters, fishermen, miners, lumbermen, dwellers in cities, or any others. None of these are in any way deserving of privileges that come at the expense of the whole. I am still convinced that we are living in a Democracy and it is my opinion that all parties concerned should remember this fact when grasping for special consideration, the granting of which would result in lasting, irreparable harm for the majority of our citizens. The position of these land seekers is indefensible.

# Camp Cook

Recipes courtesy of  
Barb Kennedy, *Cowgirls Forever*

## Chicken Tinga

4 lbs boneless chicken  
1 bunch cilantro, minced  
lemon pepper  
2 onions, thinly sliced  
28 oz can diced tomatoes  
sea salt  
4 bunches green onions  
juice of 2 limes  
cumin  
5 cloves of garlic, minced  
2 cups diced green chilies



Heat 14" Dutch oven with 14 coals on top & bottom. Pour light layer of oil to coat bottom, brown onion & garlic, add chicken, cook at high simmer 30 minutes. Add all ingredients, season with a light layer of each seasoning to cover top of mixture. Simmer till chicken starts to fall apart, reduce heat. Use a potato masher to shred chicken. For spicier Tinga add a couple of diced Serrano or Jalapeno peppers with ingredients. Serve with tortillas & sour cream.

## Easy Chile

3 lbs hamburger  
4 cloves garlic  
chile powder  
3- 15 oz cans kidney beans  
1 c diced green chile  
lemon pepper  
1- 28 oz can diced tomatoes  
1 small onion, diced  
4 bay leaves

Heat 12" deep Dutch oven with 12 coals top & bottom. Brown onion, garlic & hamburger in a little oil. Add undrained beans, tomatoes, green chilies and bay leaves. Season with chile powder & lemon pepper. Simmer 30 minutes



### 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

**Did you know that scholarships are available for first time BOW participants? The next opportunity for application will be for the September workshop. Go to [www.azwildlife.org](http://www.azwildlife.org) for applications.**

### Want to help at BOW?

**We are always looking for folks to help bring stuff to camp and drive the shooting class to the range.**

**Contact Kim at: 480-644-0077**

## WHADDA' YA' KNOW

### Answers

1. Approximately 17% of Arizona land is privately owned
2. Coconino County is the largest at 18,661 square miles, second in the continuous U.S. to San Bernadino County in California
3. 90 Federal Wilderness areas exist in Arizona, ranking second in number to California with 149
4. The last designated wilderness areas in Arizona was the five in 1990, Arrastra Mountain, Aubrey Peak, Baboquivari Peak, Big Horn Mountain, Cabeza Prieta.
5. The largest Arizona wilderness area is the Cabeza Prieta at 803,418 acres and the smallest is the Baboquivari Peak W.A. at 2,040 acres.

## Welcome New Members

Zarah Abbott	Tucson	AZ	Liz Lodman	Helena	MT
Anna Akridge	Scottsdale	AZ	Tracey Marple	Goodyear	AZ
Jason Alvarado	Mesa	AZ	Connie Maudlin	Prescott Valley	AZ
Nick Amett	Mesa	AZ	Carrie McClure	Buckeye	AZ
Mary Andersen	Tucson	AZ	Denise McCoy	Tucson	AZ
Sue Austin	Chandler	AZ	D Mickey Meredith	Apache Junction	AZ
Milissa Bell	Tucson	AZ	Nancy Nicols	Prescott Valley	AZ
Mindy Bergh	Wickenburg	AZ	Nicole Nieto	Sierra Vista	AZ
Nancy Boldt	Bismarck	ND	Jane Opps	Sun City	AZ
Carol Bousquet	Mesa	AZ	Trica Oshant Hawkins	Tucson	AZ
Jerry Brady	Mesa	AZ	Jane Parrish	Wickenburg	AZ
Cathy Brillhart	Sun City	AZ	Kim Pisano	Lakeside	AZ
Linda Bylander	Brainerd	MN	Alegra Powers	Bismarck	ND
Marilyn Colvert	Cave Creek	AZ	Letha Price	Goodyear	AZ
Heather Cousson	Houston	TX	Mark Roland	Gilbert	AZ
Coralee Cox	Kingman	AZ	Laura Ryder	Concord	NH
Rebecca DeBooy	Brea	CA	Sam Rymond	Phoenix	AZ
Kenneth Doerksen	Goodyear	AZ	Annette Satterlee	Rimrock	AZ
Tessa Fiddler	Fountain Hills	AZ	Molly Scheetz	Gilbert	AZ
Amy Finley	Apache Junction	AZ	Ty Schrader	Peoria	AZ
Ryan Georges	Payson	AZ	Sharon Shulsky	Sierra Vista	AZ
BB Gillen	Benson	NC	Diane Simmons	Peoria	AZ
John Hamill	Flagstaff	AZ	Tracy Smith	Anchorage	AK
Lynne Hawk	W Palm Bch	FL	Kelly Stang	Albany	NY
Mary Hightower	Phoenix	AZ	Shelly Stanley	Avondale	AZ
Maxine Ho	Phoenix	AZ	Matt Stewart	Yucaipa	CA
Pamela Hoffman	Buckeye	AZ	JoEllen Strong	Layton	UT
Caitlyn Hollins	Mesa	AZ	Richard Thompson	Chandler	AZ
Michele Humanick	Gilbert	AZ	Jessica Tomaszewski	Stevens Point	WI
Kara Jensen	Tempe	AZ	Colette Toronto	Scottsdale	AZ
Christi Kline	Franklin	TN	Roni Kay Voss	Mesa	AZ
Melissa Lee	Glendale	AZ	Beverly White	Henderson	NV
Maggie Lindsey	Ft Pierre	SD	Elaine Wood	Centerville	UT
Christian Lizardi	Chandler	AZ	Jeanette Wood	Scottsdale	AZ

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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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check Enclosed!  
 Please bill my  Mastercard  Visa  Discover  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

- \$ 15 Junior (17 & under)  
 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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To:

**Arizona Wildlife Federation**  
**PO Box 51510**  
**Mesa, AZ 85208**

All Membership fees are tax deductible

### Arizona Wildlife Federation Life Members

Alan Abel	Tucson	George Flener	Mesa	Jerry Marquis	Page	Lewis N. Tenney Jr.	Heber
William Acheson	Flagstaff	Chris Fonoti	Chino Valley	Christina Mathew-Bowers	Phoenix	Larry Thowe	Page
Patsy Apple	Phoenix	James E. Frye	Mesa	Patricia A. McNeil	Payson	Robert D. Tucker	Buckeye
Jeff Augustine	Scottsdale	Steve Gallizioli	Fountain Hills	Duke Mertz	Chandler	Charles W. Tyree	Tucson
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David Beaty	Mesa	Fred Gerhauser	Peoria	Jack Naperala	Scottsdale	Mark T. Vitt	Scottsdale
Diana Beatty	Kingman	Donald Gerould	Sun City	Mike Neilson	Dewey	Stephen T. White	Scottsdale
John R. Beck	Peoria	J. David Gibeault	Tucson	Fred Nobbe	Phoenix	Brian H. Williams	Scottsdale
Donald Billick	Phoenix	Rene G Gilbert	Anthem	Daniel & Annalee Norton	Scottsdale	Robert A. Witzeman	Phoenix
Bruce H. Bishop	Tempe	Kim Graber	Phoenix	Donald J. Parks Jr.	Peoria	Larry M. Wolfe Sr.	Phoenix
E Clark Bloom	Hereford	Raymond E. Grice	Mesa	Art Pearce	Scottsdale	Chuck Youngker	Buckeye
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