

Arizona Wildlife News



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What is AWF?

Our Mission Statement

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

AWF is a statewide association of people interested in the present and future well-being of Arizona's wildlife, wildlife habitat and natural systems. We believe our wildlife heritage should not be jeopardized by any activity that fails to ensure its long-term health and sustainability. From the outset of the organization, AWF's primary goal has been the establishment and maintenance of a Commission/Department form of wildlife administration, free of political influence. We continue to work with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Commissioners to assure that science-based best practices are used in the management of wildlife and habitat in Arizona.

Our Newsletter

The official publication of the Arizona Wildlife Federation, the State affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, Arizona Wildlife News (ISSN) is published quarterly as a service to affiliate members and Federation members. The editorials and commentaries in this publication do not necessarily reflect the mission of the Arizona Wildlife Federation. AWF is an equal opportunity provider.

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 AWF office at (480) 702-1365 for details.

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ARIZONA WILDLIFE NEWS

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JOIN THE CONVERSATION



A Message from the Executive Director

By Scott Garlid, AWF Executive Director



If you're looking for a "pick-me-up" as 2020 winds to a close, this issue of Arizona Wildlife News (AWN) is for you. Whether through a fall hunting trip, a hike on our public lands, or yes, even indirectly through the pages of this magazine, getting in touch with nature is simply good medicine.

Here's your quick guide for self-medication through this edition of AWN:

Going stir-crazy by staying put due to COVID? Get motivated to certify your backyard garden for wildlife! AWF board member Val Morrill, a retired Conservation Manager for the U.S. Army's Yuma Proving Grounds, tells you how in our feature article on page 16. If the lions and tigers and bears described in Val's feature article aren't enough, then get inspired by the mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep in our upcoming 50th Edition of Arizona Records of Big Game on page 20. Don't forget to add the book to your Christmas list!

Losing faith in a divided country because you've been inundated with negative political ads? Get reminded of all the positive things going on in conservation across our great nation. Lew Carpenter reflects on the National Wildlife Federation's legacy of conservation when people come together to make a difference for wildlife and habitat on page 14. If that's too far afield, get acquainted with conservation issues across Arizona in our Regional Director's reports starting on page 4. AWF Directors are in the middle of constructive conversations on a multitude of conservation and wildlife issues and solutions. This work ranges from

Lee's Ferry rainbow trout to Mexican wolves, from horse and burro management to hunting and fishing access, and from forest restoration work to forest management policies.

Starting to feel good enough to get out a bit in a COVID-safe way? Join the AWF volunteer program (page 21), be part of a nationwide monarch butterfly recovery effort (page 22), or attend a Becoming and Outdoors-woman event (page 24).

Most of all, take time this season to reflect on the wonderful gift of public lands and the great outdoors, and how they've blessed you and your family.

Yours in conservation,

Scott Garlid
Executive Director
Arizona Wildlife Federation

AWF Regional Roundup

Arizona Wildlife Federation divides the state into regions in the same manner as the Arizona Game and Fish Department. This map depicts each of those regions and the members of our Board of Directors who serve as directors for each area. Our Regional Directors are busy! In this column, we present a few of last season's activity highlights from each region.



Bob Vahle
Region 1 Director



John Hamill
Region 2 Director



Loyd Barnett
Region 3 Director



Pat Headington
Region 4 Director



Duane Aubuchon
Region 5 Director



Amanda Moors
Region 6 Director

Region 1 Director's Report

By Bob Vahle, Regional Director

Travel Management

In August 2019, a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIS) for the Public Motorized Travel Management Plan on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF) was published and made available for public review and comment. The RDEIS carried forward the same 4 key issues that were identified in the 2010 DEIS: 1. Restriction of motorized vehicle access for dispersed camping; 2. Restriction of motorized vehicle use for big game retrieval; 3. The impacts of unregulated off road motorized vehicle use to forest resources including terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species and their habitats, soils, water, and cultural resources; and 4. Economics: loss of revenues and jobs. The AWF reviewed the RDEIS and provided comments to the ASNF in 2019. To date, the ASNF has not prepared a Final Environment Impact Statement (EIS) or Draft Record of Decision on this critical forest management issue. Consequently as the explosion in sales and significant increased use of Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) on the ASNF continue unregulated, off road damage to vegetation, soils, and key wildlife habitats such as wet meadows, springs, and earthen water tanks increase. The ASNF is the only National Forest in the U. S. Forest Service system that has not completed and implemented a formal travel management plan.

Heber Wild Horse Territory (HWHT) – Management Plan

A summary with background information on the establishment of the HWHT (1974) on the Black Mesa Ranger District of the ASNF (including the history of the 26 year period it has taken the ASNF to initiate the development of a management plan) was provided to the AWF Board in the Region 1 Director's Report for the 4th quarter of 2019. On February 14, 2020 AWF received a copy of the ASNF – "Proposed Action for the Heber Wild Horse Territory Management Plan." The AWF reviewed the Plan and provided formal comments to the ASNF on March 12, 2020. A location map of the HWHT is provided in **Figure 1**.

Currently the AWF is awaiting action by the ASNF to complete the following procedural steps in the environmental analysis process in order to finally complete and hopefully implement a management plan for the HWHT. Until then, the feral “wild” horse population continues to significantly increase across the Black Mesa Ranger District and many other areas of the ASNF.

- The ASNF must prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations.
- Once the EA is prepared, the ASNF is required to make the EA available for public review and allow another comment period which the AWF will pursue as a high priority conservation issue.
- The ASNF should incorporate any needed changes identified during the Proposed Action comment period and prepare a draft Decision Notice (DN) based on the analysis. The DN and EA will be made available to those who commented during the Proposed Action comment period. This will initiate the objection period.
- After the objection period has ended, a Final Decision Notice will be issued.
- Once the Final Decision Notice is completed, a management plan will be developed for the HWHT.

A final management plan for the HWHT is targeted for completion **prior to January 1, 2021**.

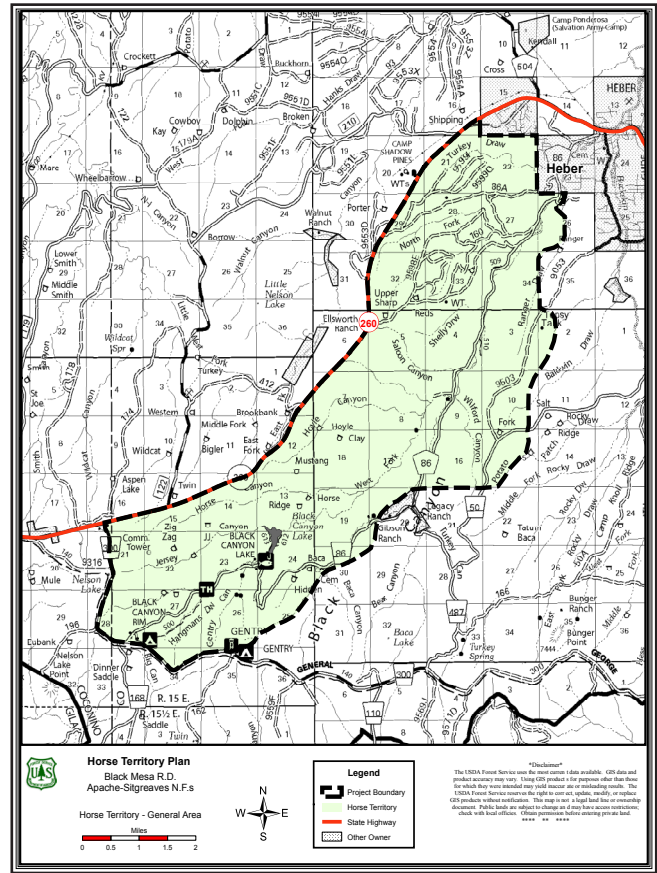
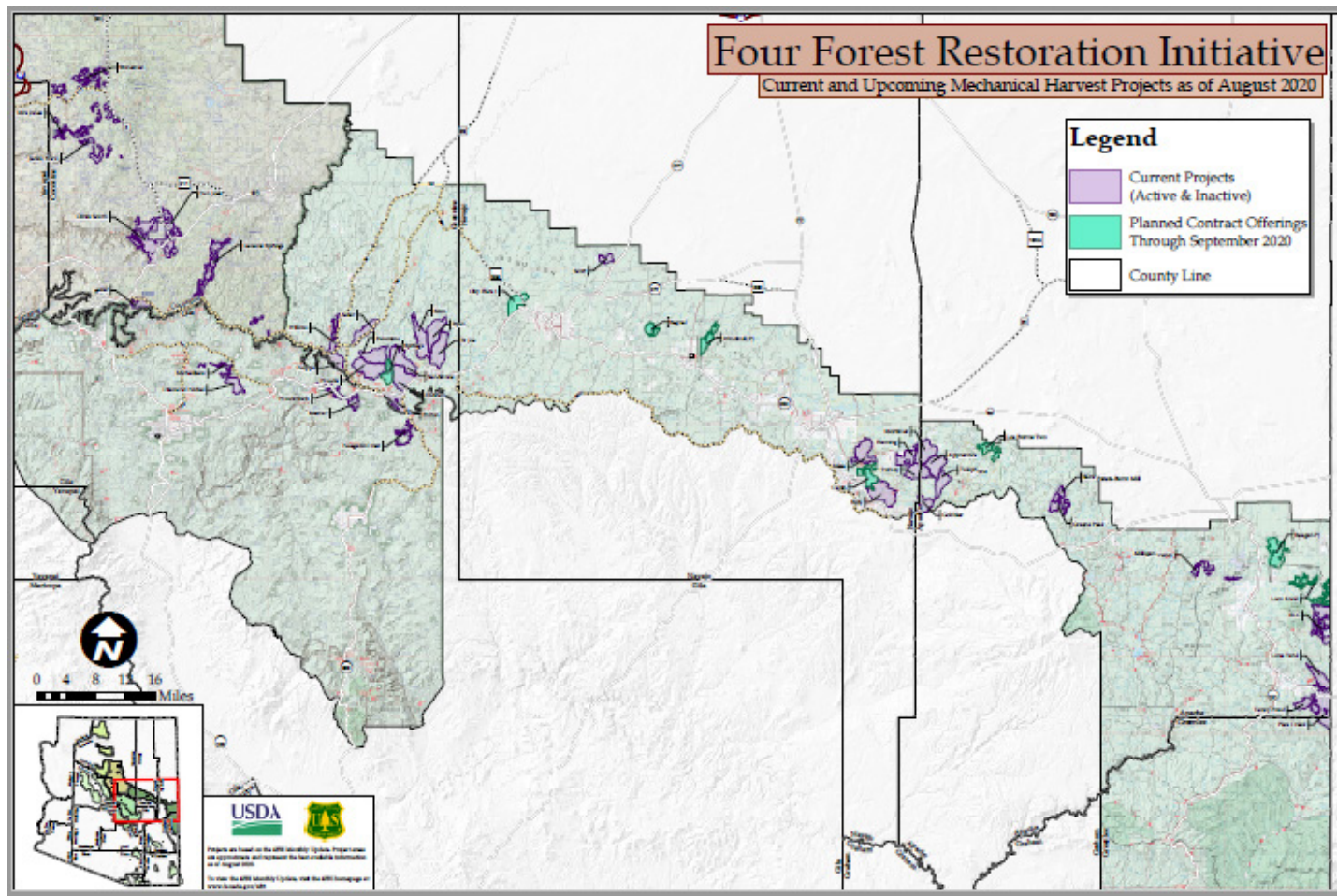


Figure 1. Location of the “Heber Wild Horse Territory” on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest.

Four Forests Restoration Initiative (4FRI)

In the Show Low and Pinetop-Lakeside area of Region 1 there are a number of large scale 4FRI forest restoration treatments ongoing. These are occurring within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), which is targeted to significantly reduce fire risk, as well as in areas outside of the WUI, which are targeted to mimic natural variability and diversity in forest habitat conditions. The Region 1 Director is continuing to visit and evaluate treatments outside of the WUIs in these areas to determine whether the 4FRI objectives of restoring a natural range of variability in forest stand conditions and a diverse range of habitat conditions for dependent wildlife are being met. The 4FRI objectives include managing forest stands as predominantly un-even age with a wide variation in tree age, size, and tree spacing distribution to mimic historic forest stand conditions. In addition, a key objective of the 4FRI project is to restore forest health conditions needed to support low intensity ground fires which historically created varying mosaics of both small openings (< 2 acres) and forest stands of varying size (10-100 acres). Currently, on-the-ground inspection of many of the forest thinning treatments outside of the WUI are now revealing that many of the forested treatment blocks are becoming homogeneous and uniform in appearance and structure (tree spacing and openness) and merging together as the 4FRI project foot print increases in size over the landscape. As a result this is creating often large contiguous areas (> 100 acres) with very low structural diversity (e.g., variation in tree spacing, tree grouping, tree size, and tree age). Consequently, there is concern that habitat diversity and key habitat components (e.g., nesting sites and cover) for many dependent wildlife species (e.g., Abert’s squirrel, cavity nesting birds, elk/deer) is being reduced in this area and potentially on a large scale. It is recommended that field inspections by AWF Regional Directors and other AWF Board Members of 4FRI treatments be conducted in AWF Regions 1, 2, and 6 to determine whether large scale application of high intensity and low structural diversity treatments outside of the WUIs are unique to this 4 FRI project areas near Show Low and Pinetop-Lakeside, or are common across other 4FRI project areas.



Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Program

On June 11, 2020 the AWF provided formal comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) regarding their docket scoping proposal of April 14, 2020 Docket No. FWS-R2-ES-2020-001 “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants” Revision to the Non-Essential Population of Mexican Wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*): Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The USFWS solicited input from the public in order to begin preparing a supplemental EIS on its 2015 revision to the non-essential experimental population of the Mexican wolf. The scoping process gives the public an opportunity to provide input on the range of issues that will be addressed in the supplemental EIS.

This past August, the Mexican wolf Species Survival Plan (SSP) group held a virtual planning meeting. The SSP oversees the management of the Mexican wolf captive breeding program for the USFW and meets annually with the primary purpose to discuss population demographics, management, and research needs, as well as to make breeding and transfer recommendations for the upcoming year. Currently the SSP houses 389 Mexican wolves in more than 50 facilities throughout the U.S. and Mexico. The next SSP meeting will be held in the summer of 2021.

The end of the year census for 2019 was a minimum of 163 Mexican wolves in the wild (76 in AZ and 87 in NM). This was a 24% increase in the population from a minimum of 131 wolves counted at the end of 2018. At the end of August 2020, there were 37 named wolf packs (18 in AZ and 19 in NM) and 6 single collared wolves. There were 87 wolves with functioning radio collars that the Interagency Field Team (IFT) was actively monitoring. Not all of the wolves in the population are collared.



Collared MGW courtesy of George Andrejko, AZGFD

Region 2 Director's Report

By John Hamill, Regional Director

Glen Canyon Dam and the Lees Ferry Rainbow Trout Fishery

The Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group (AMWG) is a 25 member Federal Advisory Committee that advises the Secretary of the Interior on the operation of Glen Canyon Dam. AWF is working with Trout Unlimited to represent recreation fishing interests on the AMWG by advocating for a wild blue-ribbon rainbow trout fishery in Lees Ferry that does not adversely affect native fish (including the endangered humpback chub) downstream in Grand Canyon National Park. Over the past several months, our focus has been on two primary issues: 1) changing the timing of high flow experiments from the fall to the spring, and 2) implementation of an "Incentivized Harvest Program" to reduce the growing brown trout population in Lees Ferry.

High Flow Experiment Timing

High flow experiments (HFEs) are controlled water releases from Glen Canyon Dam that are designed to mimic natural, pre-dam seasonal flooding. The primary objective of these releases is to rebuild sand bars along the Colorado River that provide habitat for native plants and animals, rebuild camping beaches for river runners, and provide a source of fine sediments that protect archaeological sites from weathering and erosion. The 2008 spring high flow enhanced recruitment and survival of young rainbow trout and enhanced the aquatic food base (Korman et al. 2011; Kennedy and Ralston 2011). Because of concerns about rainbow trout impacts on the endangered humpback chub, for the past 12 years HFEs have been restricted to the fall to help manage rainbow trout recruitment and survival. However, new information published by Donovan and others (2019) suggests that rainbow trout do not pose as serious a threat to humpback chub as once thought. We believe that additional spring HFE's are needed to assess the food base and trout response that was observed in 2008. We are also recommending that more emphasis be placed on conducting HFE's in the spring as a management option for use when there has been a significant decline in the rainbow trout population and/or drop in aquatic food production. We believe that spring high flows will provide other resource benefits such as helping to control nonnative mud snails and brown trout, and build camping beaches in Marble and Grand Canyons immediately before the peak rafting season. In addition, spring floods, which historically occurred on a regular basis in the Grand Canyon, will help re-establish natural ecological processes in the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam.

Last August, the AMWG provided tentative support for conducting a 5-day spring disturbance flow in conjunction with Glen Canyon Dam apron repairs in March 2021. The AMWG will make a final recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior in November 2020 following further stakeholder review of the work plan and budget for the proposed project.

Brown Trout Incentivized Harvest

We have been actively working with the National Park Service and AGFD to implement an "Incentivized Harvest Program" to control the expansion of a growing brown trout population in Lees Ferry. Brown trout are one of several non-native, cold-water fish species found throughout the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam. Recent increases in abundance of brown trout in Lee Ferry have raised concerns about their potential effects on endangered humpback chub downriver from the Lees Ferry rainbow trout fishery. Brown trout have been collected in low numbers for decades in the Lees Ferry area, but over the period 2014-2019, AGFD has documented an increase in abundance of brown trout in Lees Ferry concurrent with observations of increased spawning and recruitment. AGFD fish sampling showed an increase from the historic one to two percent of brown trout to three to four percent of collected trout.



Region 2 Director's Report Cont'd.

Brown trout are known to prey on juvenile humpback chub, so their presence has been a management concern for several decades. Studies have indicated that brown trout have a much higher rate of piscivory (fish eating) than rainbow trout on native fish, including humpback chub. Brown trout also prey on and compete with rainbow trout, so their presence in Lees Ferry raises concerns about their impact on the rainbow trout fishery.

The goal of the Incentivized Harvest Program is to determine if the brown trout population in Lees Ferry can be reduced and then maintained at manageable levels using this new tool. If successful, this tool should lower the likelihood of brown trout dispersing downriver and impacting endangered humpback chub populations. A kickoff of the incentivized harvest program is planned for November 2021. A yet to be determined reward will be paid to anglers for each brown trout that are harvested in Lees Ferry. Details of the program will be announced by the Park Service and AGFD later this year.



Typical post treat condition of a site in the Kaibab National Forest where ponderosa pine trees were thinned to reduce the threat of catastrophic wild-life fire and improve the quality of wildlife habitat.

Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI)

AWF continues to actively participate in the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI). The 4FRI is working to reestablish healthy, resilient forests in northern Arizona that support natural fire regimes and pose decreased risk of uncharacteristically severe wildfire, and foster quality habitat to support healthy populations of native plants and animals. Since 2010, only 135,000 acres have treated by mechanical thinning, far less than the 800,000-acre goal established for the 4FRI effort. Earlier this year, the Forest Service issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to mechanically thin 605,000 acres over the next 20 years. The Forest Service's hope is that this RFP will significantly increase the scale and pace of restoration efforts. Several existing 4FRI contactors have indicated that future industry investments in the mechanical thinning effort will depend on the timely issuance new long-term contracts. In response to the RFP, several proposals were received by the Forest Service which are currently being reviewed and negotiated. Results of the RFP process are expected to be available by April 1, 2021.



Tom Mackin (Coconino Sportsmen), Travis Woolsey (The Nature Conservancy) and Michael Cravens (AWF) discuss (while social distancing) how well 4FRI site prescriptions were followed, if the sites are recovering and the quality of the wildlife habitat that was achieved.

In other 4FRI news, the Forest Service, in cooperation with the 4FRI stakeholder work group, is continuing to review and address comments that were provided on the 4FRI Rim Country Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The Rim Country Project spans an additional 1.24 million acres in portions of the Coconino, Tonto, and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. The Proposed Action identified in the DEIS would mechanically treat approximately 890,000 acres of vegetation and treat approximately 950,000 acres with fire. The DEIS also call for restoration of streams and aquatic resources such as springs, wetlands, and riparian habitat across the planning area. The Forest Service expects to issue the Final EIS in early 2021.

I (John Hamill), along with Tom Mackin (Coconino Sportsmen), Travis Woolsey (The Nature Conservancy) and Michael Cravens (AWF staff) visited several 4FRI sites to assess how well mechanical thinning prescriptions were followed, whether the treated sites are recovering, and the quality of the wildlife habitat that was achieved. The sites we visited were located in

the Kaibab National Forest south of Williams, AZ. Mechanical thinning of these sites was completed about 3-4 years ago. Our general conclusion was that the site prescriptions were followed, the threat of catastrophic wildlife fire was reduced, and that the quality of wildlife habitat was improved. More specifically we observed that tree densities were reduced to the desired density level, larger trees were not harvested, sensitive areas were left untreated, understory was scarce but left intact, grasses were increasing due to a more open canopy, and clumps of trees were left untreated to provide cover for wildlife.

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Region 3 Director's Report

By Loyd Barnett, Regional Director

Burros

In March, we reported that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had just issued an environmental assessment (EA) analyzing proposed wild burro gathers, plus use of fertility controls in and near the Black Mountain Herd Management Area (BMHMA) in order to bring the population down to the appropriate management level (AML) and maintain it at that level. The BMHMA extends from the Lake Mead National Recreation Area south to I-40. The Black Mountains contain the largest contiguous area of desert bighorn sheep habitat. A 30 day public comment period immediately followed the issuance of the EA.

AWF was among the 91 respondents to the EA. We strongly supported the proposal and urged prompt implementation. However, as expected, there were numerous responses in opposition, which required analysis and response.

On August 4 Amanda Dobson, Field Manager for the Kingman Field Office, signed the Decision Record to authorize the implementation of the proposed alternative. The objective is to achieve and maintain the target AML over the next 10 years. The proposal includes an initial gather and removal of 1000 burros, followed by a re-inventory and continued removal until the AML of approximately 478 is achieved. The current estimated population is approximately 2200 animals, or 4.6 times the AML. To maintain the level, a combination of maintenance gathers and fertility controls (approved vaccines) would be employed. Initial gathers for removal of the first 1000 animals were planned to begin this fall. Detailed information and relevant documents are available at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/124356/510>.



Drought

As is the situation with much of the Southwest, Region 3 is suffering from the extended drought. Following a wetter than average winter and early spring, near record to record low precipitation amounts were recorded for the June through September period. Commonly referred to by many as a nonsoon, this was the second consecutive summer with much below average precipitation. Along with record to near record heat, the result is quite limited growth of warm season vegetation, especially many of the grasses and forbs that many wildlife species depend on for forage and cover.

Region 3 Director's Report Cont'd.

Stock tanks which depend on runoff from monsoon storms are mostly dry. An indicator of how dry the season has been is the fire season. In late April, Yavapai County instituted a county-wide ban on open fires. It was lifted about the first of August after a few July rains. However, it was reinstated two weeks later and was still in place in late September. These actions were in coordination with the Prescott and Coconino National Forests, where campfire restrictions are still in place.

Verde

Formal activities, such as the Verde River Day, which involve public gatherings were not held due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Friends of the Verde River has continued with zoom meetings for groups working on improving the overall watershed condition. I (Lloyd Barnett) represent AWF on the Habitat Connectivity and Corridor Committee. The Nature Conservancy continues to facilitate practices aimed at maintaining river flow, utilizing grant money to supplement landowners' participation. This has included converting from flood irrigation to sprinkler or drip systems, and replacing alfalfa with small grains, which require less water and often have peak water use earlier in the season when the river is at a higher level.

Region 4 Director's Report

By Pat Headington, Regional Director

Regional Events

Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club (YVRGC)

The Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club continues meeting restrictions due to the ongoing pandemic. They are exploring opportunities to move toward Zoom or similar technology for meetings considering some members may still be cautious once the meeting schedule can resume.

Clint Curry Memorial Youth Dove Hunt (CCMYDH)

The CCMYDH was held on September 5th with 18 young hunters attending the event. The event was scaled back somewhat by eliminating lunch and maintaining spacing recommendations. The event was sponsored by the YVRGC, Vortex Optics, Sprague's Sports, and Burris Optics. The young hunters harvested a few dove and had a great morning in the field!

YVRGC Youth Small Game Camp

Planning is ongoing for the Youth Small Game Camp scheduled for December 12th -13th. We will be scaling this event back to accommodate approximately 35 young hunters. We have also changed the date from October to December hoping to minimize encounters with snakes.

Arizona Congressional Dove Hunt

Representative Tim Dunn held the 2nd annual Congressional Dove hunt Thursday, September 3rd at the Gila Monster Ranch. A dinner at the home of Phil Townsend preceded the morning hunt. Attending were several representatives including Speaker of the House, Rusty Bowers, Reps. Weninger and Hernandez, along with Senator Sine Kerr. I spent the morning with Speaker Bowers helping him harvest a limit of dove.

Cabeza Prieta

I attended the opening ceremony in September at Cabeza Prieta for the expansion of hunting opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges. In attendance were Deputy Secretary of the Interior Katherine McGregor, Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Aurelia Skipwith, Refuge Manger, Sid Slone and staff, AGFD representatives Mike Sumner, John Hervert (Region 4), and Jim DeVoss. I was caught somewhat off guard with Deputy Secretary McGregor opening question of "how difficult will it be to bring out a deer or sheep without greater access?" Both Deputy Sec. McGregor and Director Skipwith recognized the harsh reality of accessing Cabeza Prieta lands with the current limitations to public access while numerous roads remain open to administration staff and CBP agents in the area. Refer to Map 1, which identifies the roads currently accessible by the public, and Map 2, which indicates all other existing roads restricted to administration staff and CBP agents.



Alma Hernandez, representative for Arizona's 3rd District, posted her appreciation of the dove hunt on Twitter.

Water for Wildlife

With the absence of our summer monsoon season in Southwestern Arizona, game waters quickly became a priority for Region 4 staff and volunteers. While trees along the washes remain green and leafy, ground cover was extremely dry. YVRGC volunteers rallied to deliver water to tank 611 to support a group of recently relocated Sonoran pronghorn. Region 4 staff were also delivering waters via helicopter to several tanks throughout the region. Since July 1st, over 185,000 gallons of water have been delivered in Region 4 during the past 3 months.

Region 5 Director's Report

By Duane Aubuchon, Regional Director

Coronado National Forest Access

The Douglas Ranger District has released a proposal to construct approximately 2.6 miles of new road segments to restore motorized access into three areas of the Chiricahua Ecosystem Management Area. These areas include John Long Canyon, Horseshoe Canyon, and the North Fork of Pinery Canyon. The proposal will reestablish legal motorized access to existing Forest Service System Roads on Forest Service managed land. The sky islands of the Coronado National Forest are surrounded by private lands and have approximately 2/3 of their access points without perfected easements, making public access an especially high priority on the Coronado National Forest. Road construction would be performed using heavy equipment such as dozers, track hoes, dump trucks, and motor graders to complete the construction of new road alignments and proper drainage primarily by installation of rolling dips, spot surfacing the road with imported aggregate material (gravel), and block and decommission old redundant portions of rerouted roads. Public scoping comments on this proposal were accepted through mid-September. After the Proposed Action and any other alternatives have been fully developed, an analysis of environmental effects related to the alternatives will be completed in a preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA).

Pinaleño FireScape Project

The Coronado National Forest is also proposing landscape restoration activities on National Forest System lands across the approximately 198,900-acre Pinaleño Ecosystem Management Area (EMA) on the Safford Ranger District in Graham County, AZ. Past fire suppression has greatly altered the disturbance regimes in the Pinaleño EMA and contributed



Mexican spotted owl courtesy of George Andrejko, AZGFD

to the impacts of uncharacteristic wildfires including the 1996 Clark Peak Fire (6,300 acre), the 2004 Nuttall-Gibson Fire Complex (29,400 acre), and the 2017 Frye Fire (48,400 acre). Large portions of the Pinaleños have fuel loads supporting uncharacteristic rates of fire spread, flame lengths, and fire line intensities that exceed the historical range of variability. The Forest Service hopes that restoration actions will achieve multiple resource benefits and increase the resiliency of vegetation in response to wildfire events, and insect and disease outbreaks within the Pinaleño Mountains. The project area includes the 61,315 acre Mount Graham Wilderness Study Area, 2,937 acre Mount Graham Astrophysical and Biological Research Area, 1,218 acre Wet Canyon Talussnail Zoological Area, the Mount Graham International Observatory, and 13.4 miles of eligible wild, scenic, and recreational rivers. The area is home to endangered species as well, including the Mexican spotted owl and the Mt. Graham red squirrel, a species whose entire distribution only occurs in the project area. Anticipated treatments include planned fire, hand thinning, mechanical treatments, herbicide application, regeneration treatments, and erosion control measures. Projects would be implemented incrementally over a 20 year period.

Public scoping comments on this proposal were also accepted through mid-September, but after the Proposed Action and any

Region 5 Director's Report Cont'd.

other alternatives have been fully developed, an analysis of environmental effects related to the alternatives will be completed in a preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA), anticipated to be completed by November 2021.

Border Wall

Federal officials plan to complete nearly 140 miles of border wall near Tucson and another 100 miles near Yuma. Construction began last year and about 50 miles of wall in seven segments has been built in Arizona so far. The bulk of the recent project starts near Nogales and runs west for 38 miles along the Coronado National Forest and Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge until it reaches the eastern boundary of the Tohono O'odham Nation, with small breaks separating the segments. Another 4 miles of wall is planned about 10 miles east of Nogales and a section of wall measuring two-tenths of a mile will go up at or near the Santa Cruz River.

Expanding Refuge Hunting Opportunities

As a follow up to last quarter's report, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, David L. Bernhardt, announced the opening and expansion of over 850 hunting and fishing opportunities across more than 2.3 million acres at 147 national wildlife refuges and national fish hatcheries. This rule is the largest expansion of hunting and fishing opportunities by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service) in history. The final rule opens or expands 859 hunting and fishing opportunities (an opportunity is defined as one species on one field station in one state). On top of last year's expansion of 1.4 million acres for new or expanded hunting and fishing opportunities, this proposal would bring the total expansion to over 4 million acres nationwide. This rule increases the number of units in the Service's National Wildlife Refuge System open to public hunting to 430 and those open to fishing to 360. The rule also formally brings the total number of National Fish Hatchery System units open to hunting or sport fishing to 21. The list of Refuges affected in Arizona includes the Leslie Canyon, Buenos Aires, Cabeza Prieta, and Cibola National Wildlife Refuges.

Region 6 Director's Report

By Amanda Moors, Regional Director

The 2020 Fire Season was brutal in Region 6. I live in Globe, AZ and we spent much of the summer shrouded in smoke from all the wildfires in the surrounding areas. We even spent days with lots of smoke that drifted all the way from the huge fires in California.

Some of the fires that were surrounding the Globe area can be seen in the map (below or at right or where ever it is). On this map you can see the lightning-caused Salt fire which grew to over 21,000 acres. Two other lightning-caused fires were the Gin and Griffin fires, which merged together and burned over 61,000 acres on the Tonto National Forest as well as the San Carlos Apache Reservation.



In October my husband and I visited one of our favorite riparian areas not far from our house. We knew the Griffin Fire had burned through there and we were worried this small riparian area, with its handful of cottonwood and sycamore trees that have struggled to survive the drought, would not survive the fire. This was the first time we were allowed back into the area since it burned in August and September. There is a great horned owl pair that nests in this patch of trees. This past spring, I had taken photos of the female owl sitting on her nest (see the photo on this page – it was taken with a cell phone through a spotting scope). We hoped the cottonwood trees the owls used had survived the flames and were still standing. Owls, unlike most other birds, do not build their own nests. Instead they use nests built by ravens or hawks. This particular nest is not

Region 6 Director's Report Cont'd.



ideal in that it doesn't have a lot of shade from the sun. When owls are heat stressed, they open their mouths and do something called gular fluttering, which is a type of panting that helps them release some heat. I took these photos on May 2, 2020 in the evening sun, which was very hot that day and shining directly on the female owl in her nest. In the second photo you can see the female with her mouth open and she was gular fluttering.

On our recent post-fire trip to the site, we were encouraged to see her nest tree still standing and the nest structure was still in-

tact. We also found some fresh owl whitewash (poop) splattered on some of the trees. However, the nest site leaf cover has been reduced even further, so it remains to be seen if they will try to use the same nest next year. While the majority of the cottonwoods and sycamores were still standing, most of the leaves were killed by the heat of the fire. Some of the trees were re-sprouting at the base. Refer to the photos to see the all the charred bark, the trees resprouting at their bases, and the owl nest in the tree. At this point it is difficult to tell

if the trees will fully recover, but nature is resilient so we are hopeful.



the land is recovering from a fire. I remain hopeful that this little patch of riparian trees will continue to provide shelter for a wide variety of bird species. Riparian areas like this are crucial to many species and it's estimated that only 0.4% of Arizona's land area is comprised of riparian areas. These are rare and special places that should be valued and protected.



Unfortunately one of the biggest sycamore trees I have ever seen, and certainly the biggest one in this area, died in the fire and broke apart (see photo). Fortunately, over its lifetime, this sycamore produced young trees nearby and hopefully those will survive.

Overall, I was encouraged to see most of the riparian trees still standing and re-sprouting at the base or growing new leaves along some of the branches that didn't burn too hot. We recently received some rain and snow in the area and it came down gently, which is exactly the type of moisture you want when the



Conservation Corner

With Lew Carpenter



Lew Carpenter is National Wildlife Federation's Director of Conservation Partnerships in the Rocky Mountain region. Lew works directly with NWF affiliates in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Nebraska.



A Conservation Legacy

By Lew Carpenter

Sometimes its important to look at where we've been to understand where we should be going, what we should work on and what threats to wildlife, habitat, and our hunting and fishing heritage remain.

In 1936, National Wildlife Federation founder J. N. "Ding" Darling worked with President Franklin Roosevelt to convene conservationists and state and local wildlife agencies from across the United States in Washington, D.C. The meeting, dubbed the North American Wildlife Conference, was called due to the urgency of habitat destruction and alarming declines of America's game and fish resources. The National Wildlife Federation was born out of that historic conference with the purpose of uniting these wildlife groups into a powerful voice demanding that government invest in a new future for America's wildlife.

Ding Darling, an avid hunter and angler, was a powerful leader who laid the foundation for many elements of modern sporting conservation. In 1934, prior to founding the National Wildlife Federation, he was appointed by President Franklin Roosevelt to a blue ribbon committee on wildlife restoration to stem the tides of severe wildlife degradation. He went on to be an instrumental voice in creating the now-famous Federal Duck Stamp program and designed the first duck stamp. Darling was the first leader of the U.S. Biological Survey, which later became the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and was an integral player in the creation of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

From those early days the National Wildlife Federation went on to build its affiliate ranks across the U.S. to include the 53 state and territorial affiliates that now comprise the Federation. While the National Wildlife Federation serves as an "umbrella" conservation organization that unites conservation interests from all stripes, more than half of the Federation's affiliates are "hook and bullet" organizations that represent hunting and angling interests in their states. The National Wildlife Federation and its affiliates have been instrumental in championing and passing the laws that have defined our sporting history and assured hunting and angling opportunities will continue for future generations.

The National Wildlife Federation currently works on myriad sporting issues across the country, including:

- Protecting migration corridors that safeguard movements of deer, elk, pronghorn, and other wildlife
- Protecting public lands from harmful energy development
- Protecting pristine public lands through special designations like wilderness and refuges
- Protecting and restoring the Mississippi River Delta through our Vanishing Paradise program
- Preventing the introduction of Asian carp into the Great Lakes
- Empowering sportswomen to become leaders in the conservation world
- Working to protect iconic wildlife such as mule deer and sage grouse across the West
- Leading the charge on attacking Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) with our sporting partners across the country on state and federal policies
- Promoting passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), which would provide funds to state wildlife agencies to prevent at-risk species from being federally listed as threatened or endangered
- Working with dozens of sporting partners as members of American Wildlife Conservation Partners (AWCP) and the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council



Together with its affiliates, the National Wildlife Federation has shaped the conservation movement in indelible ways that have protected our sporting heritage at every historical turn and challenging twist. This enduring legacy is a testament to our deep commitment to the fish and wildlife that call America home, and to our sporting traditions. The National Wildlife Federation remains steadfast in its dedication to hunting and angling as a keystone of America's conservation movement.



Gardening for Wildlife

By Val Morrill, AWF Board Member



A mourning dove finds cover and a place to raise her young in a thicket of prickly pear cactus. Photo by Nikki Julien.

During these strange times where many of us are staying home more than usual, an interesting development is the jump in folks tackling home improvement projects, including gardening. It does help that the times coincide with the spring and summer growing seasons. For many, it gets us outdoors, physically active, and mentally hopeful for future tomatoes, pleasing landscapes, and glorious floral displays. Coincidentally, such efforts pay dividends in the potential to increase property value, to reduce energy costs, and to enhance soil health, air quality, water retention and habitat for wildlife. It is the hope, wish and desire of the AZ Wildlife Federation (AWF) that Arizonans prioritize benefits for wildlife while gardening in their outdoor spaces.

What?! Prioritize for wildlife in gardens?? Lions, and tigers and bears, oh my! Well in the land of OZ perhaps, but in AZ how about creating habitat for ant-lions, tiger swallowtail butterflies and woolly bear caterpillars? In fact, the first consideration a gardener for wildlife should address is what kind of critters does one want to share one's space. Scale is a primary issue. The habitat potential of a ranch in the Sky Islands compared to a Phoenix balcony container garden mandates different limits, but both are equally valid and doable. Another initial consideration is what kind of wildlife does one not want: mosquitoes and nuisance wildlife come to mind. An example of how this concern could drive a decision would be whether a gardener would want to provide open water. Birdbaths or backyard ponds are great for songbirds and fish, but they can also invite undesirables such as mosquitoes and nonnative invasive species. To get a better idea about nuisance concerns, the AZ Game & Fish

Feature Article: Gardening for Wildlife



This “bird poop” is eating your citrus leaves and will one day change from being a camouflaged caterpillar to the magnificent tiger swallowtail butterfly.

Department provides helpful advice on their website at <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/livingwith/>.

The next step is to have a plan. In addition to many garden and landscape planning tools out there, AWF and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) provide the definitive guidance for creating wildlife-friendly spaces. Access to both organizations’ wildlife gardening support is available via <https://www.azwildlife.org/Garden-for-Wildlife>.

NWF offers the Garden Certification Checklist as a planning tool to help navigate the suite of ecological services needed to sustainably support wildlife guests. It additionally describes the steps that gardeners need in order to certify properties as wildlife habitat. These are the basic elements required: food, water, cover, places to raise young, and that all of these are managed in a sustainable manner.

Food:

Plant shrubs and trees – perennial plants - that flower and produce fruits and seeds. Rotate seasonal annual plants that do the same. Choose native plants over introduced ones, because natives are already adapted to the local environment. Plus, critters and bugs that are co-adapted will be readily attracted to plants known to them. If your space is limited like a balcony or patio, then focus on a variety of showy flowers in pots or window boxes that attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Also, bird and squirrel feeders can supplement natural sources: these often serve as a focal point for wildlife watching. For the NWF certification requirement, provide at least three food sources.

Water:

All animals need water to survive, and some need it for bathing (think songbirds) or breeding (think frogs). In much of Arizona however, the hot arid conditions drive adaptation of many species to forego open sources of drinking water. Many insects, reptiles, and some birds and mammals in the desert get all the water they require from squeezing it out of the food they eat - metabolic water. Most lizards, birds such as roadrunners, and mammals such as kangaroo rats never need to drink free water. So again, the question about what kind of critters you hope to attract is key to how you respond to sourcing water. Provide bird baths and similar open water sources if you desire aquatic or migratory species – think bi-seasonal songbird migration. Conversely, eliminate open water if your focus is to encourage desert species, or if you are concerned about attracting nuisance species. For the NWF certification requirement, provide one water source.

Cover:

Look objectively at how appealing and safe your shared space may or may not be in the eyes of wildlife that you are inviting. Wildlife need places to rest, get out of the heat, find shelter from bad weather and escape predators. Cover also



Desert wolfberry, *Lycium fremontii*, is an excellent native shrub providing critters with food and cover while providing gardeners with a tasty treat and passive solar shading. Photo by Karen Reichardt, Ligurta, AZ.

Feature Article: Gardening for Wildlife

helps by attracting possible prey sources such as insects and snails. To most critters, expanses of lawns and hardscapes may seem as inhospitable as moonscapes. Within reason and tolerance of one's neighbors, the general rule is messy is better than manicured. Find ways to add structure and stratification using both living and nonliving sources. Create contours such as hills and swales. Vary sizes, shapes, and distribution patterns of rock, deadwood and living plants to enhance cover. In the example of the balcony garden, cover can be achieved by arranging potted plants at low, midway, and high placement. A flowering climbing vine would be an ideal choice: passionflower is one such vine that can be commercially available, native, and stunningly beautiful. Furthermore, it can grow tasty and nutritious fruit, and serve as a host for butterfly caterpillars in the fall. Lastly, cover also means controlling your pets that may otherwise prey on your wildlife guests. Cats need to stay



You can recreate these kinds of nesting tunnels with this easy project: <https://blog.nwf.org/2019/06/buzzworthy-mason-bee-condos/>.

“Garden as if life depended on it.”
--Doug Tallamy,
Nature's Best Hope

indoors. In the United States alone, outdoor cats kill approximately 2.4 billion birds every year, making them the number-one direct, human-caused threat to birds (<https://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/cats-and-birds/>). For the NWF certification requirement, provide two cover sources.

Places to Raise Young:

Wildlife needs for food, water and cover are amplified during breeding season. Gardens should ramp up food sources in both quality and quantity in order to meet the demands of establishing territory, attracting a mate, having babies, and raising them until they are on their own. Provide nesting materials by

letting leaf litter lie, leaving stumps or snags for cavity dwellers, or placing a bird or bat house or bug hotels. For example, Mason bees are among 4,000 wild bee species native to North America that happen to be incredibly efficient pollinators. Individual female mason bees lay their eggs in a series of tiny chambers they create within tunnels in decaying wood. For the NWF certification requirement, provide two sources for places to raise young.

Sustainable Practices:

All aspects of our modern lifestyle, including one's gardens, benefit from implementing sustainable practices. In the big picture, our actions - good and bad - impact the entire planet. Based on one metric, the global human footprint of what we consume is about 7 acres per person according to data current through 2016 (<https://www.footprintnetwork.org/>). The bad news is that the earth's capacity for sustaining the human species caps at 4 acres per person. The good news is that the footprint shrunk about an acre in comparison to the previous report: an encouraging sign that perhaps sustainable measures are helping. By creating habitat for wildlife, gardeners are helping. Private residential property makes up approximately one-third of the urban landscape and studies show that the impact of wildlife gardening is substantial. A study published in 2015 found that “streets with bird-friendly yards had almost twice as many species as those with-



Xeriscaped yards can be very lively, colorful and welcoming to wildlife with native plants, rock mulch, drip irrigation to keep water usage low.

Feature Article: Gardening for Wildlife



White-winged doves eye the pool's water feature for bathing and drinking.

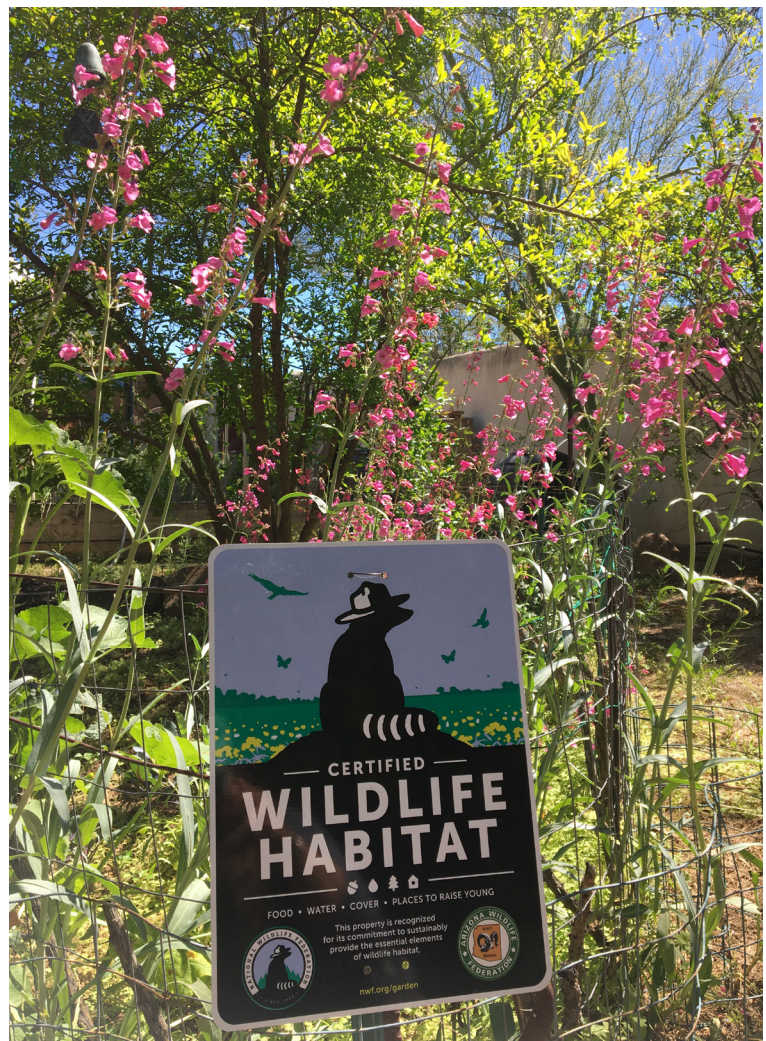
out.” Furthermore, private properties can act as habitat corridors connecting separated municipal, state, and federal protected natural areas.

Additional measures wildlife gardeners can implement include rainwater harvesting, composting, mulching, xeriscaping, and the four ‘R’s: reduce, re-use, re-purpose, and recycle. Some great tools to help measure success include the footprint calculator at <https://www.footprintcalculator.org/>, and itree.org’s tools at design.itreetools.org on both internet and mobile platforms. The footprint tool provides a generic snapshot of one’s sustainability scores, while the iTree tool literally gets into the weeds of ecosystem benefits through time of each and every tree and shrub that is planted – very cool! For the NWF certification requirement, provide services representing at least two out of three categories of sustainable practices.

Importance of certifying:

Accomplishing all of the above steps is commendable: now and in the future wildlife, people, and the planet will benefit. And it’s true that the value added by taking the next step and submitting the application for becoming Certified Wildlife Habitat - and acquiring the sign - is not as tangible and quantifiable. However, it is no less significant. By certifying and posting a sign on one’s property, the entire neighborhood learns about the importance of considering wildlife, and just how easy it is. If some neighbors are reluctant about gardening for wildlife, an official sign demonstrates standardized practices and triggers what will hopefully be teachable moments. According to Mary Phillips, senior director of NWF’s Garden for Wildlife, “The new National Gardening Survey shows people across America are purposefully planting for wildlife, making a conservation difference where they live and advancing the wildlife gardening movement.”

Certification has doubled in 2020, and the number hovers near 250,000 habitats certified nationwide. A nominal fee will register your wildlife habitat and metal signs are available for an additional fee. Shop NWF’s certified wildlife habitat products and choose to add AWF’s logo. A portion of the sale comes back to us. Be a part of that achievement and spread the word!



Records of Arizona Big Game

Golden Anniversary Edition

By Amanda Moors, AWF Treasurer, and Trica Oshant Hawkins, AWF Secretary



AWF's Arizona Record Book Committee has been working diligently to complete the next edition of the book in time for the holidays. The Record Book, which records the scores of game animals taken by hunters throughout Arizona, has been published every five years by AWF, since 1970. This is a special year for the Record Book as 2020 is the 50th anniversary of the book's publication, making this the Golden Anniversary Edition! The Arizona Record Book is also the oldest state record book program of any state in our nation.

To help celebrate this milestone, this year's edition will be printed in full color. The book will include many interesting articles, exciting hunt stories, as well as memorial articles to honor those important to the hunting community who have passed since the last record book was published. This Golden Anniversary Edition will also have a Forward by Buck Buckner, who is the last surviving member of the very first Record Book Committee. Buck will include an overview on the history of all the record books since the AWF began publishing it back in 1970.



To be accepted into the Record Book, hunters must apply by providing documentation that the animal was legally harvested, was taken under Fair Chase conditions, and have it scored by an official measurer. For the non-hunters out there, this means taking careful measurements of the animal's skull size and/or dimensions of its antlers or horns. A banquet is held annually (present year excepted) to honor the applicants and those with the largest animals taken in that year.

Pre-order today at:

<https://azwildlife.org/>

Records-of-Arizona-Big-Game

Currently, the Arizona Record Book Committee is projecting this edition's release in December. This will make a great Christmas gift for the hunters in your life for Christmas 2020! Preorder your copy today. When the book is available for delivery, we will notify you and send you an invoice to the email you provide. You can then pay online or print the invoice and mail with a check.



AWF's Volunteer for Wildlife Program

By Trica Oshant Hawkins, AWF Secretary



Working with Arizona Antelope Foundation to build an enclosure for future pronghorn antelope release.

The Arizona Wildlife Federation's Volunteer for Wildlife program has been very quiet this past year due to the Covid19 pandemic. Gatherings in large groups have been discouraged and many organizations and agencies put wildlife projects on hold. However, AWF has been working "behind-the-scenes" to build our volunteer base and be ready to take action to help with wildlife conservation projects when opportunities arise. As well, while gatherings in large groups are still not a good idea, AWF has recently managed to safely be involved in a few hands-on conservation projects. We are finding that we can work safely outdoors by following CDC guidelines, minimizing numbers, wearing masks, and social distancing. The fact our projects are outside is a bonus!

Last year, AWF's field coordinator and volunteers participated in numerous wildlife conservation projects with AWF affiliates, agencies, and project sponsors. One of the goals of our Volunteer for Wildlife program is to support our affiliates by helping them on their projects. So far, we have helped affiliate organizations the Arizona Antelope Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Southern Arizona Quail Forever, and the Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club on their projects. We have also helped the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Bureau of Land Management, and National Fish and Wildlife Service on their wildlife conservation projects. These projects involved work such as fence removal, modification, and building; installation and/or repair of wildlife water systems; debris and trash clean up on public lands; data gathering; construction of check dams for water infiltration and erosion control; and other habitat improvement projects. These habitat projects are typically labor intense. They often occur in remote areas that may require 4x4 access and/or hiking in with equipment. Even in these conditions, most of the labor is done through volunteers. Wildlife enthusiasts who offer their time and assistance are the lifeblood of these conservation efforts. If you're one of those volunteers, thank you! It is your love of wildlife and wildlife habitat that gets the job done! Not all of our volunteer projects require intense labor however. Although opportunities are still few and far between, over time, you can expect volunteer opportunities with AWF to include outreach and education, advocacy, and administrative tasks. We know that our members and supporters are often seeking ways to help, and we need you! Giving your time is one way to show your support for AWF and Arizona's wildlife and wildlife habitat. If you are interested in joining AWF in these efforts, you can sign up on our Volunteer for Wildlife webpage at azwildlife.org/volunteer and we'll connect you with projects that help wildlife. Sign up at azwildlife.org/volunteer or volunteer@azwildlife.org.



Glen Dickens, board member of both AWF and AAF, reviews a map to inform volunteers during a fence removal project to benefit antelope.

What is Happening on Behalf of the Monarch Butterfly?

By Glen Dickens, AWF Vice President



A monarch takes flight in prime habitat along an unkept roadside near Sonoita during a tagging project in the fall 2013. Photo by Nikki Julien.

Background

Since 1997, both western and eastern populations of the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*) have shown significant declines. Based on information provided in a 2014 petition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that there was substantive information to list the monarch butterfly as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This initiated a 12-month species status assessment (SSA) which, when completed, will further inform the FWS for their listing decision. Concurrent with the species status assessment/review, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies have actively promoted collaborative efforts across state, organizational, and landownership boundaries to address threats and opportunities facing monarchs and other pollinators.

In 2017, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) established the Western Monarch Working Group to proactively lead a multi-state cooperative effort for conservation of the western monarch population. This western monarch population boundary is defined as west of the Rockies in the states of AZ, CA, WA, OR, NV, ID and UT. The WAFWA directors articulated the following statement of purpose of this newest WAFWA work group: “To identify and promote unified, ecosystem-based management approaches at the landscape-level for the western population of the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*), and pollinators in general, across all partner agencies and interested partners.”

The Western Monarch Working Group established several near-term objectives specifically to inform the species status assessment. This included the development of a Western Monarch Conservation Plan, which was completed and approved by WAFWA at their mid-winter meeting in January 2019. Future objectives will focus on implementation of actions contained within the Conservation Plan, with the long-term goal of improving status and maintaining persistence for the monarch throughout the western portion of the species’ range into the foreseeable future (50 years). This document, The Western Monarch Butterfly Conservation Plan, is intended to articulate and portray WAFWA’s vision to identify and promote a shared set of coordinated, ecosystem-based conservation strategies across all partner agencies to achieve the vision of a viable western monarch population.

Arizona's Monarch Participation

In 2019 the "Arizona Monarch Collaborative" was formed to further monarch and pollinator conservation in the state of Arizona. The Arizona Monarch Collaborative includes participants from over 35 organizations across the state, including state and federal agencies, tribes, non-profits, consultants, museums, nurseries, botanical gardens, and universities. Their mission is to "provide a platform for collaborative conservation planning for the monarch butterfly and other pollinators, and their habitats, in Arizona." The Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF) is an active participant in this working

group and is represented by AWF Vice President and Certified Wildlife Biologist Glen Dickens.

Goals include:

- Provide a venue for collaboration and discussion.
- Share information and resources for monarch and pollinator conservation.
- Guide monarch and pollinator conservation effort at the statewide level.
- Facilitate implementation of priority actions.

On October 29, 2020 the first fall Arizona Monarch Collaborative Conservation Strategies Planning Session was held. The meeting was an interactive online session designed to help the AZ Monarch Collaborative create its own statewide plan that is tiered to the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Western Monarch Butterfly Conservation



Volunteers plant milkweeds in May at a farm in Elgin. Photo by Glen Dickens.

Plan. The meeting included brainstorming breakout groups for each of the WAFWA Strategy categories: Natural Lands, Agricultural Lands, Rights-of-Way, Education & Outreach, and Urban & Industrial Development. Each participant attended three of the five breakout sessions to discuss how to adapt the conservation strategies for Arizona, and to brainstorm specific action items.

The Arizona Monarch Collaborative has identified three committees in which members will participate:

1. Plant Materials and Restoration
2. Working Lands and Best Management Practices
3. Research

Would you like to be involved and assist with Monarch recovery? The AWF will be coordinating closely with the Arizona Monarch Collaborative to identify volunteer opportunities in which our members and supporters may be involved. We will send out a call for volunteers for specific projects as opportunities arise. To be on the list to receive AWF volunteer notices, sign up on our website at www.azwildlife.org/volunteer or send an email to volunteer@azwildlife.org. An example of the type of volunteer projects is illustrated here where, on an organic farm in Elgin this past May, three species of milkweed were planted to provide an annual seed source. So stay tuned and sign up to volunteer with AWF!



Volunteers plant milkweeds in May at a farm in Elgin. Photo by Glen Dickens.

BOW Still a Healthy Success Amid the Pandemic

By Trica Oshant Hawkins, AWF Secretary, and Amanda Moors, AWF Treasurer

During the last quarter of this year, AWF was able to safely and successfully hold two BOW events, which is amazing in the middle of a pandemic! By carefully following CDC guidelines and ensuring that attendees and instructors were socially distant and masked-up -- not to mention conducting nearly every session outdoors -- both BOW events came off without a hitch. After sheltering at home for so long, participants and instructors alike were grateful for the opportunity to safely get outside to teach and learn in the great outdoors.

The first event was a one day workshop held in August at

the Arizona Nordic Center near Flagstaff. Part of following CDC guidelines included keeping group size small so participant numbers were limited and ultimately, we ended up with 16 ladies. Classes included Arizona Wildlife, Wildflowers, Backpacking, Bowhunting and Wilderness Survival Skills. Participants were able to choose two classes for a full day of outdoor activities. By all accounts, this first-ever mini-BOW was a success and

we are planning to host more, one-day events like it in the future.

Given the success of the August mini-BOW, a three day BOW workshop was held in September at Friendly Pines Camp in Prescott. Again, the number of attendees was reduced in

order to comply with the Governor's order to limit gatherings to 50 people or less. Given the number of instructors, helpers, and coordinators, the number of students was limited to no more than 30. That goal was not quite reached as there were several cancellations, but we did end up with 22 women who attended and LOVED the weekend! Given the lower number of attendees, the number and va-



riety of classes were also reduced, but were still able to offer a variety of shooting, archery, and fly fishing activities as well as tracking, camping, wildlife calling, and wilderness skills. In the evening, group gatherings were also limited in size and occurred primarily outdoors. The weather was perfect for the entire weekend. The food was healthy, hearty, and tasty, and was carefully served with safety measures in place which helped everyone to feel comfortable and safe. The ladies were also able to spread themselves out in all the available cabins and some chose to camp on-site in the meadow or the woods. By adhering to all the safety guidelines, we feel confident that conducting outdoor events, like these BOW workshops, is totally doable – even in a pandemic!

The BOW must, and will, go on!



September BOW at Friendly Pines Camp in Prescott provided plenty of space.

Fall 2020

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By including AWF in your estate planning, you give the gift of long-term conservation.



CERTIFY YOUR GARDEN

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For the little ones in your life, give the gift of learning and discovery with Ranger Rick Magazine through our website and AWF receives a portion of your rate.



VOLUNTEER

Join AWF on hands-on conservation projects in the field. We work with our affiliates to offer volunteer opportunities across the state.

Become an AWF Member

Giving to the Arizona Wildlife Federation allows us to further our mission to meet the needs of Arizona wildlife as we seek to protect wildlife species, the habitats in which they live, and the planet we share. As a member of AWF you will receive our quarterly print magazine (Arizona Wildlife News) featuring articles relating to our hunting and fishing traditions along with the latest in conservation efforts around the state. You make a difference to us. Please consider becoming a member today to help wildlife tomorrow! Becoming a member is easy on our website:

<https://azwildlife.org/Join-Us>

AWF Membership Application

Name			Select Membership Level	
Billing Address			<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500 Life Member
City	State	Zip	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$45 Family - 1 year
Phone	Email		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$30 Individual - 1 year
<input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed			<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25 Distinguished Individual (65+ or Disabled Veteran)
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover	<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard	<input type="checkbox"/> American Express	
Card Number				
Expiration Date	CVV		Mail To: Arizona Wildlife Federation	
			P.O. Box 1182, Mesa, Arizona, 85211-1182	
			AWF@azwildlife.org, 480-702-1365	

Thank You to Our New and Returning Members

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Ben Altneder	Eldon Buckner	Chuck Flewelling	Ken Kerr	Joe Miller	Phyllis Scheuerman
Adrian Alvarez	Robert Byrnes	Hollis Flint	Ken and Arlene Kerr	Kinsely Miller	Gary Simon
Jim & Rita Ammons	Christina Carlson	Stephen, Joanne & Flynn	Harry Kieling	David Miller	Dennis Sloan
Mark Andersen	Paul Carter	Gwen Foster	Fred Kolar	Amanda Moors	Campbell Smith
Sandy Anthony	George Cathey	M T Gibson	Gabriele Koschorke	Richard Morehouse	Ronald Smith
Susan Anthony	Colin Chadwick	Bonnie Glenn	Al Kreutz	Linda Moriarty	Richard Spragues
Ernest Apodaca	Jack Childs	Bobby Goitia	Brian Kurzel	Valerie Morrill	James & Maxine Strang
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