



Arizona Wildlife News

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Official Publication of the Arizona Wildlife Federation

Who is AWF?

Our Mission

The Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating, inspiring, and assisting individuals to value, conserve, enhance, manage, and protect wildlife and wildlife habitat. AWF is the state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

For a century, we have worked on behalf of Arizonans like you to advocate for science-based wildlife management, access to our state's incredible public lands, and to provide opportunities for people to experience the outdoors. We believe in science-based, Commission guided wildlife management, free of political influence. Since the founding of the organization, one of AWF's primary goals has been the establishment and maintenance of a Commission form of wildlife administration. We continue to work closely with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Commissioners, and state decision-makers to ensure that science-based best practices are used in the management of wildlife and habitat in Arizona.

Our Magazine

Arizona Wildlife News (AWN) is the official publication of the Arizona Wildlife Federation and is published quarterly.

The Arizona Wildlife Federation welcomes stories, art, and photographic contributions! We will consider, but assume no responsibility for unsolicited proposals, manuscripts, art, and photographs. Contact the AWF Communications Manager at (602) 320-6051 for details.

AWF is celebrating our Centennial in 2023. We are the oldest conservation organization in Arizona and were instrumental in forming the state's first commission and department to manage wildlife. This year, we are reflecting on our history in Arizona and looking toward our future with hope. We welcome you — our supporters — to tell us stories of past leaders and changemakers who made the AWF what it is today.

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Front Cover Photo Courtesy of Cheryl Reuss, Back Cover Courtesy of Morgan Andrews

A Message from the Executive Director

Scott Garlid, AWF Executive Director

A Heritage of Conservation

The Iroquois, Lakota, and several other indigenous people have leadership philosophies around making decisions based on their impacts on seven generations. It's a mindset we could all stand to reflect on and learn from.

I believe most people who value the conservation of outdoor places and our natural resources are generally inclined to both reflect on the past and think about the future. If you need convincing, reread Aldo Leopold's *Sand County Almanac* as he cuts through the "Good Oak" on his Wisconsin farm. Or look at the websites and communications from AWF and other conservation organizations and see how often we refer to things like, "the future of wildlife," or "for our grandchildren to experience and enjoy." Caring about the future is often the primary motivator for each of us who volunteer, advocate, or donate to conservation and organizations like AWF.



As many of you know, the Arizona Wildlife Federation recently celebrated our 100-year anniversary, so we've covered about four generations since Aldo Leopold's vision launched what is currently AWF. At our Centennial Celebration, what really struck me was the combined years of commitment to conservation and the future of Arizona's wildlife and public lands all gathered together in that one room. Everyone there was doing, or had done, their part to carry the torch for what's best for the future of Arizona's wildlife and public lands.

This issue of AWN, themed "The Heritage of Conservation," highlights that commitment and those with a long-term vision for conservation. Lew Carpenter provides a history of the National Wildlife Federation's early years including its founding with conservation legend Ding Darling. Max Trujillo reflects on how deer camp and hunting and fishing traditions bring together families across generations. Andrew Black and Gabe Vasquez tell the recovery story of Gila trout that started about two generations ago, and how the species is now connecting to a new generation of conservationists. Elise Lange wraps it all up with snapshots into our history through the eyes of a few past AWF Board Presidents – indeed we are standing on the shoulders of giants!

It's hard for me to project seven generations ahead. But I know if we listen carefully and hold on to the lessons of those who went before us, and if we continually challenge ourselves to be as forward-looking as we possibly can, we'll stay on the right path for the next 100 years. And that's when we'll know we've done our part to carry on the proud heritage of conservation.

Yours in conservation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Garlid". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Scott Garlid

Conservation Corner

National Wildlife Federation History and Heritage Rooted in Hunting

By Lew Carpenter, NWF Rocky Mtn Region, Director of Conservation Partnerships



NWF staff and affiliates still hunting together today. Photo by Lew Carpenter.

At a time when millions of Americans stood in soup lines and politicians focused on reviving economically depressed communities, the idea of restoring depleted populations of ducks and other wild animals seemed far-fetched, to say the least. But that is exactly what Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist J.N. “Ding” Darling set out to do in 1936 when he arranged a meeting in Washington, D.C., to discuss the plight of the nation’s wildlife.

At the meeting, Darling urged conservationists from all across the country and different walks of life to unite into a block that could influence lawmakers. From that meeting, a new organization emerged as a voice for protecting the country’s wild heritage: the National Wildlife Federation.

America’s Conservation Roots

To understand the National Wildlife Federation’s beginning, it’s important to first take a look back at the roots of conservation in the United States. American wildlife conservation is grounded in the belief that wildlife belongs to the people—a concept commonly known as the

Public Trust Doctrine. This is also one of the pillars of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

The Public Trust Doctrine was formally established during an 1842 Supreme Court case, *Martin v. Wadell*. A private landowner, Martin claimed to own both the land alongside and underneath New Jersey’s Raritan River, tracing his title to a grant from King Charles to the Duke of York in 1664, which purported to convey, “all the lands, islands, soils, rivers, harbors, mines, minerals, quarries, woods, marshes, waters, lakes, fishings, hawkings, and fowlings.” Martin claimed that an oysterman (Wadell) owed him for the taking of oysters. In his ruling, Chief Justice Roger Taney stated, “[w]hen the people of New Jersey took possession of the reins of government, and took into their own hands the powers of sovereignty, the prerogatives and regalities which before belonged to either the crown or the parliament, became immediately and rightly vested in the state.”

Wildlife now belonged to the people, but conservation was not yet part of America’s fabric. In the late 19th century—

on the heels of the Industrial Revolution—market killing of the buffalo, waterfowl, and other wild game species began decimating America’s wildlife to support the growing workforce and urban appetites. In response, dedicated hunters and anglers from New York to Montana pushed for the nation’s first game laws, restricting the numbers and methods of take for wildlife. With laws established to sustain healthy wildlife populations, conservation-minded leaders emerged to challenge the values by which Americans perceived wildlife.

After the assassination of President McKinley in 1901, the great hunter and outdoorsman Theodore Roosevelt moved into the White House and the bully pulpit. Roosevelt’s conservation ethic was formed through the eyes of a hunter during trips west to South Dakota and Montana.

Before he ended his term as president in 1909, he endowed the United States with 230 million acres of protected landscapes for the conservation of wildlife—approximately 84,000 acres for each day he was in office. With Americans and legislators beginning to embrace the concepts of conservation as a core, fundamental value, the first national wildlife refuges, national forests, national monuments, and game preserves were created.

Theodore Roosevelt inspired a nation to conservation during his presidency at the turn of the century, but it didn’t take long for his ideals to slip. By the 1930s, ill-advised farming practices encouraged by the federal government led to the Dust Bowl. The lid had come off of the prairie and Iowa cartoonist Ding Darling began the vision for what would become the National Wildlife Federation.

A Cartoonist's Vision

In the early 1900s, there was no nationwide constituency to support conservation. Many people cared about wildlife conservation, but nobody was organized in any fashion to advocate for or influence policy decisions. In the words of Darling, "Wildlife doesn't vote and neither do conservationists."

Darling proclaimed, "It is hard to start a fire with one stick of wood!" He valued the importance of multiple stakeholder participation and accepting the attitudes, values, and beliefs of many groups. Darling dreamed of a federation promoting conservation interests, encouraging social diversity, and demanding action from Congress.

His dream became reality in 1936 when he convinced President Franklin Roosevelt to convene more than 2,000 conservationists—including farmers, hunters, anglers, garden club members, and other outdoor

enthusiasts—from across the country to the first North American Wildlife Conference at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. There the General Wildlife Federation (changed two years later to the National Wildlife Federation) was formed with the idea of uniting sportsmen and all outdoor and wildlife enthusiasts behind the common goal of conservation, and Ding Darling became the first president of the organization. Darling’s vision to unite the voices of conservationists continued as National Wildlife Federation was responsible for the passage of many laws and policies at the national level.

This first conference was such a success that energized and motivated participants returned home to organize federations in each of their states. These affiliates became the backbone of National Wildlife Federation and today work closely alongside us, providing governance for the organization and the vision and grassroots needed to achieve our joint conservation goals.

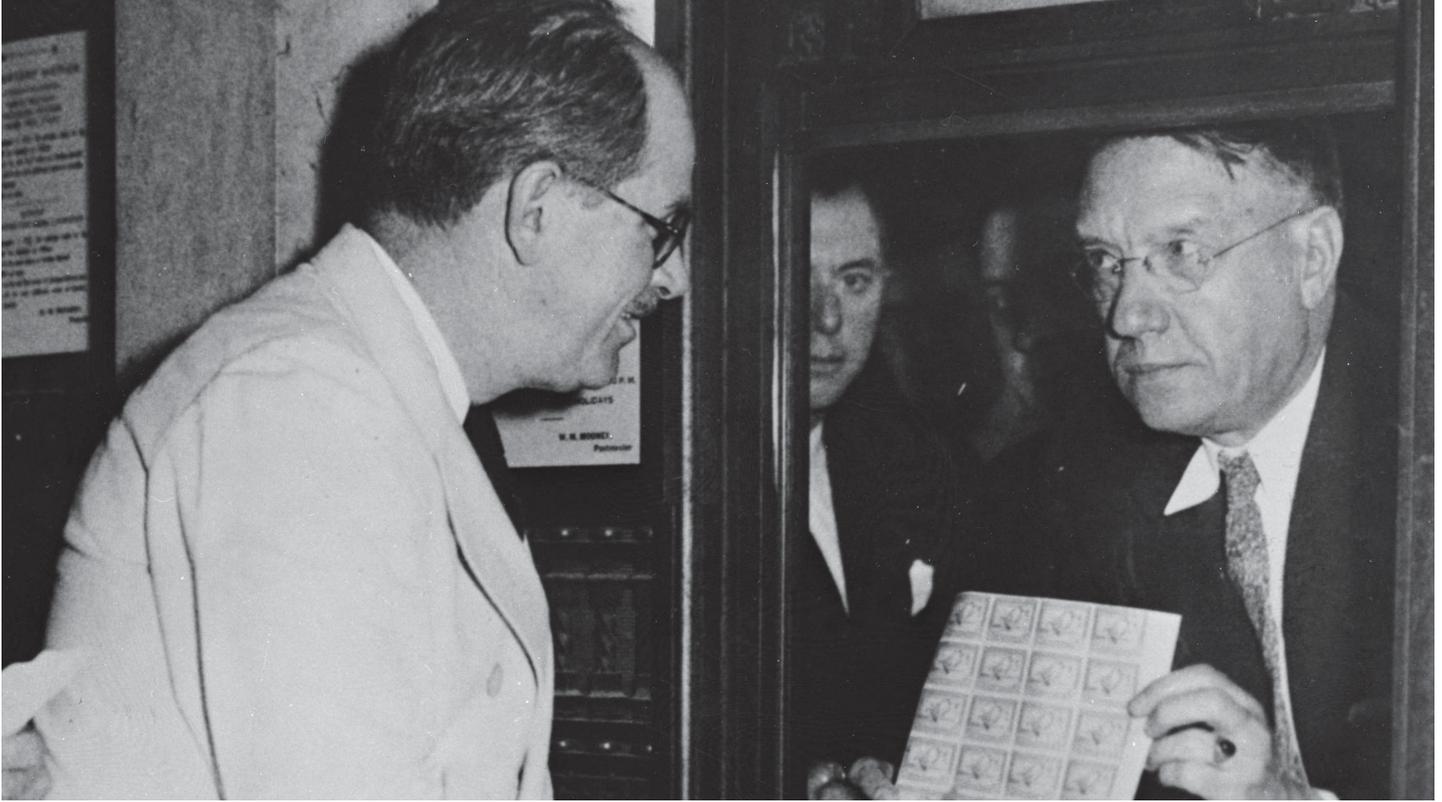
Now one of our most defining traditions, each year affiliates and staff from all corners of the country come together for the National Wildlife Federation's Annual Meeting. This gathering is a time of collaboration and unity, during which affiliates and staff collectively decide on the policy resolutions that will guide our ongoing conservation work. To view an archive of these approved policy resolutions, visit the National Wildlife Federation's Affiliate Partnership Center.

Stamps for Wildlife

Ding Darling saw the impacts from the Dust Bowl firsthand as an avid waterfowl hunter, and he began letting people know about it. His cartoons and conservation ethic caught the attention of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who appointed him the head of the U.S. Biological Survey in 1934 (the forerunner to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife



Original Duck Stamp.



Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling (1876 - 1962) became the "Father of the Federal 'Duck Stamp'" on March 16, 1934, when Congress passed and President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act. The law set up a permanent source of conservation funding. Courtesy USFWS.

Service). Aldo Leopold had just published his classic text, *Game Management*, and Darling was instrumental in making the service a professional agency implementing the practice of scientific management of fish and wildlife.

Darling was asked to lead the development and creation of the artwork for the agency's new Federal Duck Stamp. This stamp, originally the federal license required for hunting migratory waterfowl, was an early example of hunters and non-hunters united as conservationists by an artist's work.

Since Darling illustrated the first duck stamp, the program has generated more than \$750 million to purchase and lease over 5.3 million acres of wetland habitats in the United States. Most of these lands are now protected in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System. The Federal Duck Stamp is still the primary source of revenue for waterfowl management and purchased by all waterfowl hunters to this day.

Darling resigned from his post with the Biological Survey in November 1935, wanting to devote his time to the 1936 meeting that ultimately established the National Wildlife Federation. But he wasn't done with stamps. Enthusiasm for Darling's vision of a united federation for wildlife quickly encountered a need for funding. One suggestion urged the federation to create stamps depicting wildlife. Darling jumped at the idea and created 16 images for the first sheet of conservation stamps in 1938. The program

got off to a rocky start, but became one of the National Wildlife Federation's signature products. By the time the final sheet was issued in 1987, more than a thousand species had been represented and millions of dollars raised for wildlife.

Wildlife artwork was the tool with which the National Wildlife Federation built bridges between wild animals and the people interested in protecting them. It began with stamps, but prints, magazines, books, and other products incorporating wildlife imagery eventually followed. In 1959, the National Wildlife Federation's friendly cartoon character Ranger Rick was born from the creative imagination of executive J.A. "Ash" Brownridge, inspiring a long line of children's products and experiences that continue to spark an interest and passion for nature.

Today the National Wildlife Federation recognizes conservation heroes, including Ding Darling, in the Conservation Hall of Fame.

Because of the groundbreaking efforts made by Darling and others in 1936, the National Wildlife Federation continues to unite Americans with the common purpose of protecting wildlife for our children's future, and continues to be the nation's leading advocate for wildlife and wild places.

It's Bigger Than All of Us

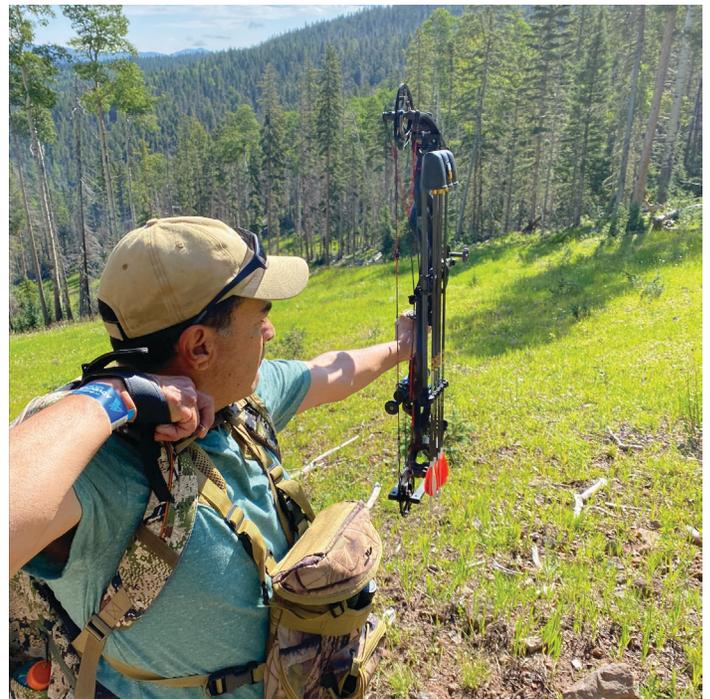


By Max Trujillo, Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting and the Outdoors (HECHO) New Mexico Senior Field Coordinator

Memory goes back a little over fifty years ago to a modest Northern New Mexican home, where a family prepares for the opening day of deer season. My mom wrapping bean and green chile burritos, my dad and brothers cleaning their rifles and making sure everything was functioning properly, and the smell of Hoppe's solvent and gun oil mixed with the aroma of fresh beans and chile could only mean one thing: deer season was upon us.

The rituals of treating our boots with bear oil, making sure our orange vests were in our duffle bags, packing, and loading the truck with all we'd need for the next few days were some of the greatest feelings a kid could experience. I started going hunting with my dad and brothers when I was about nine years old, and every year since I have enjoyed the same sensation I did on my first hunting trip.

Setting up the army tent my dad scored from one of his ex-military buddies in the same place we had it the year before, using the same fire ring we've used for years, and the beauty that surrounded this perfect campsite made us feel like we were the richest people on earth – not in monetary wealth but wealth from family, love, and the great outdoors. The sound of coyotes howling as we turned off the lantern in the



tent and retired for the night before opening day added another dimension to the whole experience.

Opening day was the best, as we would leave camp on foot and the chase was on. Being one of seven brothers, I'd hunt with my dad and my older brothers would head in different directions toward their favorite places. Never more than an hour would pass



on opening morning when the first shot would ring out. If it wasn't my dad shooting, he'd know which one of my brothers had likely taken the shot. "That was Tony," or "That was Joseph," he'd say, and when we'd get back to camp, sure enough, there'd be a deer hanging from the same tree we used for many seasons to come.

Was it the preparation, the actual hunt, the sights, the sounds, the challenges, the survival skills, or the primal instincts it takes to be part of the food chain?

I know now that we weren't the only family who felt like this. There are millions of families who go through their own version of this story dating back to the dawn of man. It doesn't matter what your ethnicity may be or if you hunt with firearms or bows and arrows, the hunt is what binds us not just to each other, but to the land that sustains us all. The experience is not measured by how many inches of antlers we harvest but by the memories and bonds we make with each other. There is only one explanation for why we do this generation after generation: It's bigger than all of us.

Enjoying what we love is even sweeter when we do what we love on public lands. Hunting and fishing in truly wild places is a legacy we need to protect by any and all means necessary. It is our gift to generations yet unborn, and if we do this right, one day our grandchildren and great-grandchildren might hear our voices in the breeze while taking their children hunting or fishing.

It's bigger than all of us.





Out of the Desert Springs Forth Hope

*By Andrew Black, NWF Public Lands Field Director and Gabe Vasquez,
Founder of Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project*

Last February, under a glorious bluebird sky, 30 children got the chance to fish for the iconic Gila trout at Whitewater Creek in southwestern New Mexico. For many, it was their first time casting a rod and hooking a fish. Judging by their smiles, it won't be their last. The fact that this fishing expedition took place at all is a remarkable story of conservation, cooperation, and community.

Gila trout are of critical importance not only to the evolution of the desert southwest but to the history and cultural identity of the region. Native American tribes have long recognized the ecological importance of these fish, which live in remote, high desert streams (so remote that the Apache leader Geronimo and his warriors hid from the U.S. Army in these areas in the 1880s). Early western settlers affectionately described Gila trout as “yellow bellies,” noting their distinctive coloration and spotting. Throughout the 1900s, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts traveled hundreds of miles just to catch (or catch a glimpse of) this truly unique species.

Unfortunately, over the years, more than 95% of Gila trout habitat was destroyed by livestock grazing, logging, road construction, and wildfires. The widespread introduction of brook, brown, and rainbow trout also led to its decline. In 1973, the Gila trout was officially listed as an Endangered Species.

What has happened since that listing is a story of collaboration that offers a glimmer of hope for all who have become disillusioned with the political divisions and dysfunction that grab today's headlines.

By working together, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, the New Mexico and Arizona Departments of Game and Fish, conservation groups, and hundreds of volunteers **have managed to restore Gila trout populations.**

In some cases, the efforts made by these groups were nothing short of Herculean. After the Whitewater-Baldy fire burned nearly 300,000 acres, agency staff and volunteers used pack mules to travel into brutally rugged



terrain to rescue isolated populations of Gila trout. Often, however, the work has been more mundane, involving scientists who carefully record trout numbers, water temperatures and restore riparian habitat.

Key to the recovery has been the work of the Mora National Fish Hatchery, which has kept brood stocks of Gila trout for restocking. Thanks to the cooperation and work of these agencies and conservation non-profits, the Gila trout was down-listed from “endangered” to “threatened” in 2006. Special provisions were created to allow limited fishing, with the hope that local fishermen and community members will lead the final preservation efforts that will result in the full recovery of the Gila trout.

As a way to celebrate this teamwork and success, conservation groups began planning a family fishing day at Whitewater Creek in early January 2019. The hope was to help foster a love of fishing and conservation among children and youth. But then, there was a government shutdown which meant the restoration and trout stocking done by federal workers came to a halt. Organizers feared that canceling the event or not having kids catch fish would only jeopardize ongoing community support and future conservation efforts.

However, in yet another example of collaboration, the federal hatchery employees formulated a plan with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, to continue stocking the waters. Working without pay and guided by a deep sense of mission, it was clear the federal employees understood the impact that stocking the trout would have on local youth, their communities, and the broader narrative of conservation in the American Southwest.

And so it was, on that crisp February morning, as dozens of children cast their rods and learned about the importance of this ancient fish, we looked up from the streambed through the narrow red rock cliffs and found ourselves humbled by the selfless efforts of America’s public servants.

Not only have they helped restore Gila trout; they have helped build the next generation of conservationists. That morning, it became clear that this was not just an event for a fish that had once been endangered. It was also about America’s endangered sense of community and a strong reminder to us all of the good we can do when we come together to protect our public lands, water, and wildlife. Ultimately, it’s a lesson in hope and collaboration that we desperately need our leaders in Washington, D.C. to learn.

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

The 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!



Bob Vahle
Region 1 Director



Travis Woolley
Region 2 Director



Loyd Barnett
Region 3 Director



Pat Headington
Region 4 Director



Duane Aubuchon
Region 5 Director



Jon Hanna
Region 6 Director

Region 1 Director's Report

By Bob Vahle, Regional Director

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF): 1. Heber Wild Horse Territory (HWHT) - Management Plan:

The AWF continues to await the completion of a HWHT Management Plan which (as previously reported) was originally required at the passage of the 1971 Free Roaming Wild Horse and Burro Act. The HWHT was scheduled to be completed by the ASNF by March 2022. The AWF has been actively involved since 2017, to help the ASNF develop a management plan for the 19,000-acre HWHT near Heber-Overgaard, AZ on the Sitgreaves portion of the ASNF.

To date, the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) - HWHT Management Plan has not been completed, approved, and implemented. It is hoped that if the management plan is completed and implemented, it would retain the following key management provisions that were identified in the Draft Environment Assessment (DEA) - HWHT Plan issued for public comment in March 2021 and strongly supported by the AWF.

- Establish the appropriate management level of 50-104 horses to maintain a thriving natural ecological balance.

- Establish Population Control Techniques
 - * Identify criteria to be considered when determining whether excess wild horses are present and require removal.
 - * Describe methods to be used to gather and remove excess wild horses.
 - * Describe fertility reduction methods that may be implemented to slow herd growth rates and reduce the number of excess animals which must be removed over time.
- Establish an adaptive management strategy which identifies potential management actions based on monitoring results.

As a result of not completing a HWHT Management Plan, the ASNF has been totally restricted by a federal court injunction from removing any unauthorized "feral horses" on the Sitgreaves portion of the ASNF since 2005. The injunction was sanctioned by horse advocates and issued to stop the ASNF from removing at that time 300-400 unauthorized feral horses which were having adverse impacts on forest vegetation, water resources, and wildlife habitats. Consequently, uncontrolled feral horse populations on the Sitgreaves portion of the ASNF have expanded and are now residing in close proximity to



Figure 1. A current band of 20 feral horses within 1-2 miles of the Pinetop-Lakes residential area and Country Club and Pinetop Country Club where damage from feral horses (e.g., grazing and hoof damage to golf greens/fairways, and residential yards) is occurring and of concern to private landowners and will continue to occur until the feral horse populations are controlled and removed.

communities such as Pinetop-Lakeside, Arizona (Figure 1). In addition, the area occupied by this feral horse population is used heavily by the public for hiking and mountain biking where potential negative interactions with feral horses could become a public safety concern.

2. Population Removal of “Feral Horses” on the Alpine RD and Springerville RD:

As previously reported, the AWF will continue to strongly support the ASNF in its proactive actions to contract for the humane capture and removal of unauthorized livestock and “feral horses” on the Apache portion of the ASNF. It is estimated that there are over 400 feral horses on the Alpine Ranger District and Springerville Ranger District which are considered “trespass/unauthorized livestock” and are not protected as “wild horses” under the provisions of the 1971 Free Roaming Wild Horse and Burro Act. This feral horse population (which can double its population every 5 years if not managed) is causing significant natural resource damage to vegetation, soils, water, and habitats for native wildlife species and must be removed from federal public lands.

The ASNF has issued six temporary area closure orders for gathering unauthorized livestock (i.e., both feral horses and cattle) during the gathering operations. The purpose of the area closure orders is to protect public health and safety during operations to gather unauthorized/unbranded livestock in the described areas and time periods. The area closures are: 1) Boggy Wildcat Closure

– 9/5 to 10/31/2023; 2) Caldwell Corrals Closure - 9/5 to 10/31/2023; 3) Gravel Pit Closure – 9/5 to 10/31/2023; 4) Kettlehole Closure – 9/5 to 10/31/2023; 5) Horse Creek Closure – 10/18 to 12/31/2023; and 6) Home Creek Closure – 10/18 to 12/31/2023. For more detailed information on the ASNF actions to remove feral horse populations in these areas, and maps of the closure areas, visit the ASNF website at (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/asnf/landmanagement>).

3. ASNF - Public Motorized Travel Management Plan:

The Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the ASNF “Public Motorized Travel Management Plan (PMTMP)” was issued for public comment in August 2019. The AWF reviewed and provided extensive comments on the DEIS and proposed management plan. As previously reported, completion and implementation of the ASNF- PMTMP is critically needed considering the significant increase each year of the sales and the use of Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) on the ASNF. The ASNF reported the completion of the Final EIS to be issued to the public on March 1, 2023. However, to date the plan has still not been completed and implemented. Consequently, misuse of OHV vehicles by the public (i.e., illegally driving cross country off designated roads/trails and violating signed closure areas that restrict OHV use) continues to increase across the ASNF causing damage to natural resources (e.g., vegetation, soils, and water health) and important wildlife habitats (Figure 2.)



Figure 2. Off Highway Vehicle damage to a wet meadow and spring on the ASNF.

Region 3 Director's Report

By Loyd Barnett, Regional Director



VERDE RIVER

As previously reported, the Prescott National Forest was required to conduct a wild and scenic river (WSR) suitability study for 38 miles of the Upper Verde River in the Prescott and Coconino National Forests. This is the portion upstream from Cottonwood and Clarkdale and is already determined eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS).

Suitability studies are used as a basis for decisions to recommend (or not) to congress inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Previous studies determined that the area is eligible – meets the legal requirements – for inclusion, with the longest segment being eligible for scenic designation, and smaller portions eligible as wild and as recreational.

A Draft Environmental Assessment (DES) was issued in December 2022. On September 23, 2023 a Final Environmental Assessment and Draft Decision Notice was issued. The Forest selected an alternative which recommended designation of segments of the river as Wild, Scenic, and Recreational, proceeding sequentially downstream. However, between the Wild and Scenic and between the Scenic and Recreational segments were approximately one-mile segments not recommended for designation (segments 3A and 3B as shown on Fig. 1).

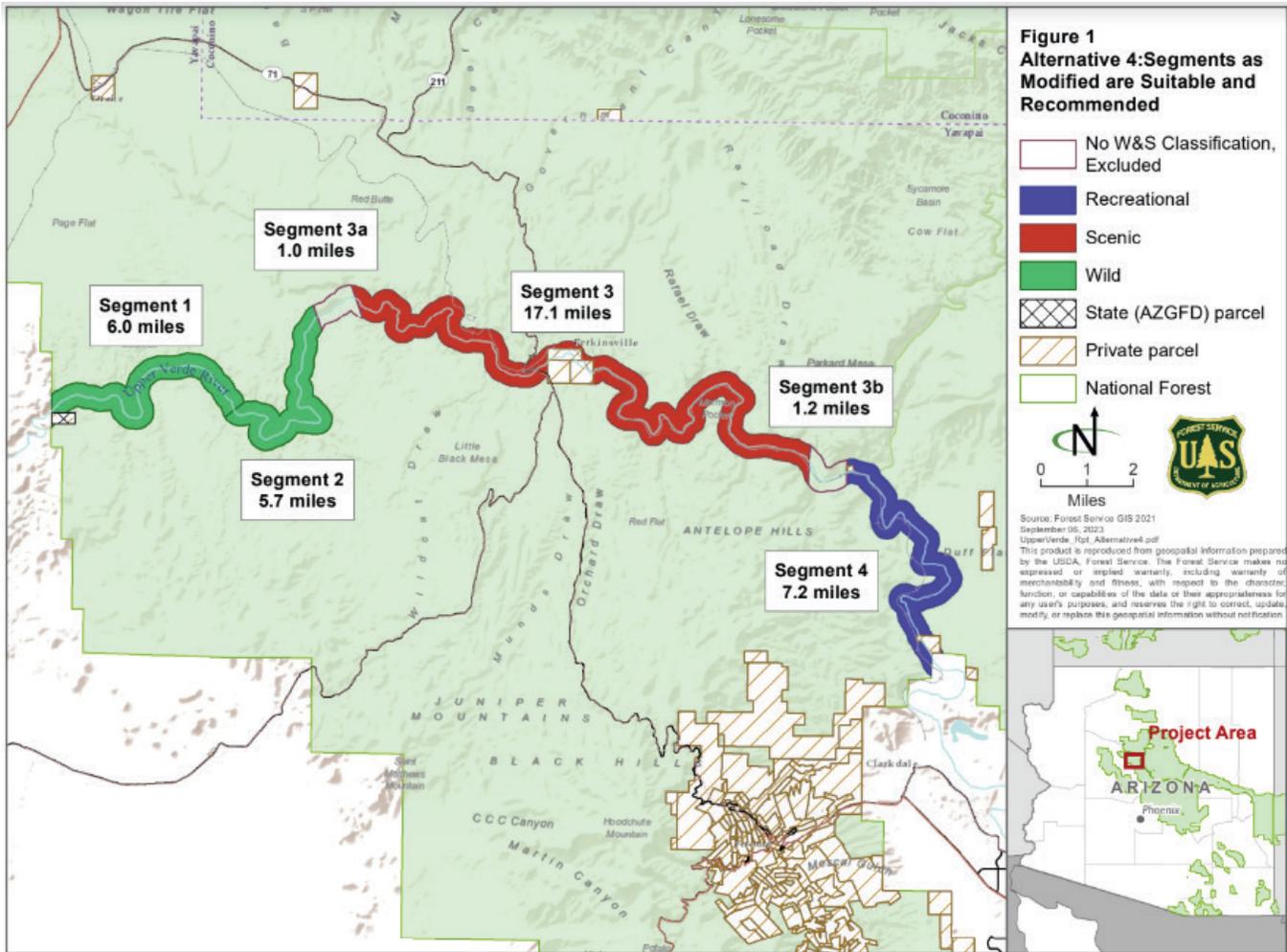
These sections have been identified as recommended sites for fish barriers by the Bureau of Reclamation. The purpose of the fish barriers is to prevent movement of non-native fish from moving into a stream managed for native species, in this case including two species listed as threatened or endangered, the spikedace and loach minnow.

The Prescott National Forest's draft decision includes the provision that if either of the two segments identified for fish barrier are determined to not be used for that purpose they would be reclassified as suitable and recommended for designation.

Designation within the Wild and Scenic River System can only be done by act of Congress. The results of this study mean that it is recommended for inclusion in the system. In the interim, the river will be managed so as to maintain its suitability for designation and the Prescott and Coconino National Forest plans will be amended to reflect this direction.

YAVAPAI RANCH

The Prescott National Forest recently announced plans to evaluate a proposal for a land exchange between the Forest Service (USFS) and the Yavapai Apache Nation (YAN).



In the exchange YAN would acquire lands in the Camp Verde and Middle Verde areas that are currently within the Prescott and Coconino National Forests. In exchange the Forest Service would acquire six sections (one mile square) of checkerboard lands within the Yavapai Ranch. About 20 years ago YAN purchased these six sections with the intent of eventually trading them to the Forest Service for land in the Verde Valley near their reservation and other land holdings.

We have previously reported on the Yavapai Ranch and the fact that there are approximately 100,000 acres of checkerboard pattern (alternating sections) with half being Prescott National Forest and the other half being privately owned. The area has a wide diversity of habitats, ranging from wide open grasslands to ponderosa pine and Gambel oak.

Currently the majority of the private sections are not fenced separate from the adjacent National Forest, and they are managed together. The public can recreate and

hunt on the private sections as well as the National Forest. However, there is no assurance that this is permanent. The private lands are zoned so they can be subdivided as small as 2 acres.

The land proposed to be exchanged by YAN is in the southeast corner of the checkerboard area and includes some of its higher elevations. It is adjacent to a group of checkerboard sections proposed for acquisition through Land and Water Conservation Fund purchase. In order to balance the appraised value of lands traded to the United States with those exchanged to other ownership (YAN), four smaller private parcels – one each within the Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab, and Prescott National Forests — are also proposed to be included in the exchange.

The proposal is in the early stages and public scoping for environmental analysis under NEPA is expected to begin. The process is expected to take several years.

Region 6 Director's Report

By Jon Hanna, Regional Director

Superior Community Working Group:

I've been attending the Superior Community Working Group (CWG) Meetings via ZOOM for the Resolution Copper Mining Project. The CWG, founded in 2013, is a community-run, volunteer organization that was established to keep citizens informed about the proposed Resolution Copper Mining Project, to discuss issues and concerns about its development, and to consider economic, social, and environmental impacts on the region. The CWG also has a Recreation Users Group subcommittee to bring together parties who have an interest in the National Forest and its habitat in order to make better decisions that incorporate the interests and concerns of all users, meet the needs of Tonto National Forest decision-makers, and help resolve conflicts. The CWP webpage <https://superiorazcwg.org/> is extremely informative and an excellent reference for news articles regarding the Resolution Copper Mining Project.

2010 Table Mesa Recreation Area and Travel Management Plan:

The Bureau of Land Management Hassayampa Field Office opened a public comment period for updates to expand upon the 2010 Table Mesa Recreation Area and Travel Management Plan. The goal of the 2023 Table Mesa Recreation Area Management Plan is to propose a management framework that allows for both current and future recreation needs in the Table Mesa area. The BLM proposes to update and expand upon the 2010 Table Mesa Recreation Area and Travel Management Plan. The Table Mesa Recreation Area Management Plan has three alternatives.

1. No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative represents the existing conditions and management of the Table Mesa area. Under this Alternative, the BLM would not authorize the expansion of the Table Mesa Recreation Area or the construction and operation of any of the proposed facilities/areas. Dispersed recreational target shooting would continue to occur on those BLM lands where currently allowed by law. Public safety concerns and recreational shooting waste would not be addressed in the area.

2. Proposed Action Alternative (Figure 1)

The BLM proposes to update and expand upon the 2010 Table Mesa Recreation Area and Travel Management Plan. Under the proposed action, the Travel Management Plan

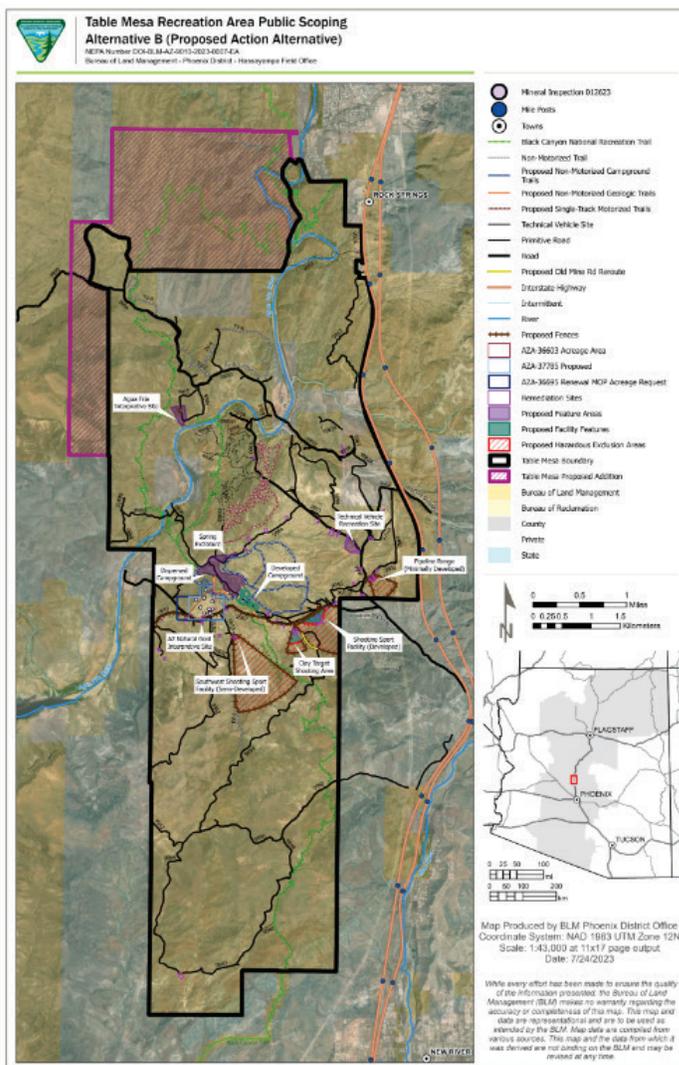


Figure 1. Proposed Action Alternative.

will remain in place, and implementation will continue to occur. Resource goals from the 2010 Table Mesa Recreation Area Management Plan will be updated **and include the additions of recreational shooting sports sites**, developed and primitive camping areas, a technical vehicle recreation site, a single-track motorized trail area, a non-motorized trail area, an archery range, cultural and geologic interpretation sites, and administrative actions, including business planning, and site remediation. Under the proposed action alternative, construction will be done in phases depending on available funding, time of year, and user preference.

Dispersed shooting areas outside of the new shooting range **construction** will be reclaimed and restricted from future shooting activity.



Figure 2. Tonto National Forest Globe conditions.



Figure 3. Tonto National Forest Globe conditions.

3. Limited Development Alternative

Under the Limited Development Alternative, the BLM would not authorize the construction of any of the proposed facilities. The expansion of the area and the proposed supplementary rules would be authorized.

Dispersed target shooting in the recreation management area would be prohibited for public safety and resource protection. Discharging a firearm would only be permitted in accordance with Arizona Game and Fish hunting regulations. Remediation of the dispersed target shooting areas would be authorized and conducted in accordance with the remediation plan.

The Arizona Wildlife Federation feels that Alternative 2 represents the best Alternative of the 2010 Table Mesa Recreation Area and Travel Management Plan. The alternative allows for both current and future recreation

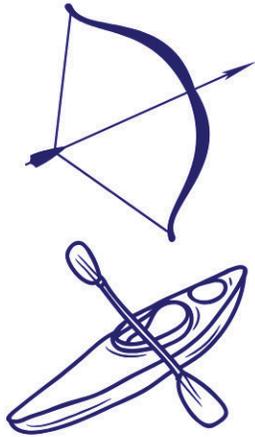
needs in the Table Mesa area, while ensuring protection of resources. The Arizona Wildlife Federation supports Alternative 2 and strongly objects to the Limited Development Alternative which would eliminate target shooting of any kind.

Tonto National Forest Globe Ranger District:

I've been reaching out to the Tonto National Forest Globe Ranger District Range Staff for some feedback on current range conditions I recently discovered on one of its allotments. Management of the allotment does not meet the Forest Service mission statement of taking care of forest resources such as recreation, quality habitat, and forage for wildlife. So I can have a better understanding of current management, I've asked to meet with the range management specialist to discuss allotment strategies. (See Figures 2 and 3 above for current range conditions.)

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January 27 — Yuma

April 26-28 — Friendly Pines Camp, Prescott

September 6-8 — Friendly Pines Camp, Prescott

OUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!



AWF partners and supporters gathered this October in honor of our Centennial Celebration. Photo by Betty Dickens.

On October 21st this year, AWF commemorated 100 Years of Conservation with our Centennial Celebration that included long time supporters, friends, affiliates, and partners. The event featured special speakers including a message from Arizona State Governor Katie Hobbs, National Wildlife Federation President and CEO Collin O'Mara, State Parks and Trails Director Bob Broscheid, Arizona State Representative David Cook, and other dignitaries, including Aldo Leopold himself, as presented by Steve Morgan in a Chautauqua performance.

It was truly a special evening with so many longtime AWF supporters joining in the celebration and making it feel like a reunion of conservationists. Scattered throughout the venue were information stations highlighting the impact of AWF: Becoming an Outdoors-Woman and Bridges to BOW, Volunteer for Wildlife, Records of Arizona Big Game, Garden for Wildlife, Get Outdoors Arizona, Advocacy, our valued Affiliates, and 100 Years of Impact.

A special thanks to our caterer, The Huntress, and to our event sponsors: The National Wildlife Federation,



John Robbins, NWF Board Chair, raises his glass in a toast to the past 100 Years of AWF — and to the next! Photo Courtesy of Piper Perea.

Salt River Project, Canyon Coolers, Orvis, and Arizona Wilderness Brewing Company.

And, of course, a huge thank you to our partners, affiliates, Board Members, staff, and supporters for making the last century so impactful.

We're looking forward to the next 100 years...this is not small stuff!

Centennial Spotlight: Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

By Elise Lange, AWF Communications Manager

Centennial Spotlights

With this fall magazine edition, we are wrapping up our year of celebrating our 100 year anniversary: Our Centennial! Over the past year, along with a series of special events and activities, we have shared our amazing history with you in the form of “Centennial Spotlights” – articles on the people and events that made the Arizona Wildlife Federation what it is today. We stand on the shoulders of giants and we felt it was important to share their stories and contributions with you. These are stories worth telling and people worth remembering for what they have done not only for AWF but for the conservation of Arizona wildlife and wild places. As we look ahead to our next 100 years, we honor those who laid the foundation for AWF and science-based wildlife stewardship in Arizona... including our past presidents, some of who are the focus of this final Centennial Spotlight.

Past Presidents of AWF

1923–1925 Thomas E. McCullough
1926–1927 F.L. Benham
1928 Fred Sutter
1928–1930 J.A. Diffen
1931 Fred Gibson
1932 William Heger
1933 J.A. Diffen
1934–1935 Glen W. Persons
1936 A.J. Eager
1937–1938 Thomas E. McCullough
1939 R.K. Wickstrum
1940 Charles L. Wilson, Jr.
1941–1942 James E. Babbitt
1943 Harry Funk
1944 Dr. L.S. Hoopes
1945 M.T. Baldwin
1946–1947 James A. Beaman
1948–1949 Max Layton
1950–1951 Joe Dora
1952 Ray Moore

1953–1954 Lee Hoover
1955 L.C. Dingess
1956–1957 James Sparks
1958–1959 Bill Beers
1960 Gordan Evans
1961–1962 Robert Spillman
1963–1964 Phil Clemons
1965 Jack Jackson
1966–1967 N.A. “Bill” Winter
1968–1969 C. Gene Tolle
1969–1970 Fred Greenwald
1970–1971 C. Gene Tolle
1970–1971 Thomas J. Sullivan
1971–1972 Jim Levy
1972–1974 Floyd E. Herman
1974–1976 C. Douglass Baker
1976–1978 Gary Lamonica
1978–1980 Alan Crossman
1980–1982 Mary Jane Shoun
1982–1984 Rick Erman

1984–1986 Ace. H. Peterson
1986–1987 Patrick Willis
1987–1989 Jack H. Simon
1989–1991 Lee A. Kohlhase
1991–1992 Mike Neilson
1992–1993 Lee A. Kohlhase
1993–1994 James E. Breck
1994–1995 Vic Largesse
1995–1996 Mark Hullinger
1996–1998 Don Farmer
1998–1999 Dave Morris
1999–2000 Ken Haefner
2000–2001 Jerry Thorson
2001–2004 Don Farmer
2004–2007 Mary Jo Forman Miller
2007–2010 Ryna Rock
2010–2015 Tom Mackin
2015–2022 Brad Powell

A Look Back at Some of Our Previous AWF Board Presidents

The Arizona Wildlife Federation has a rich history — 100 years, to be exact — and much of that is due to the passionate and committed presidents who have guided us through the years. From our very first president, Tom E. McCullough, who was said to “be destined to lead to a successful conclusion, the long bitter fight to secure proper management of our fish and wildlife and their habitats,” to our current president, Glen Dickens, who has made it clear that this is “not small stuff,” we have had a long line of dedicated leaders in our century of conservation.

While this article does not cover all of our over **50 presidents**, it does share some thoughts, stories, and accounts from a few of our more recent presidents. The current Board and Staff of AWF thank *ALL* of our Past Presidents for their steadfast leadership and passion for Arizona’s wildlife and wild places, and for getting us to where we are today: commencing with our next 100 years of conservation!

Northrup A. “Bill” Winter Jr.: 1966–1967

Bill Winter was a Phoenix advertising executive, conservationist, and sportsman. Bill served two terms as president of the Arizona Wildlife Federation and was the immediate past president of the three-million-member National Wildlife Federation, a post he also held for two terms.

In 2022, Bill Winter was posthumously inducted into the Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame, a prestigious award that honors individuals and organizations that have made remarkable



The
Arizona
Wildlife Federation
proudly presents
N. A. “Bill” Winter Jr.
as its candidate for
PRESIDENT
of the
National Wildlife Federation

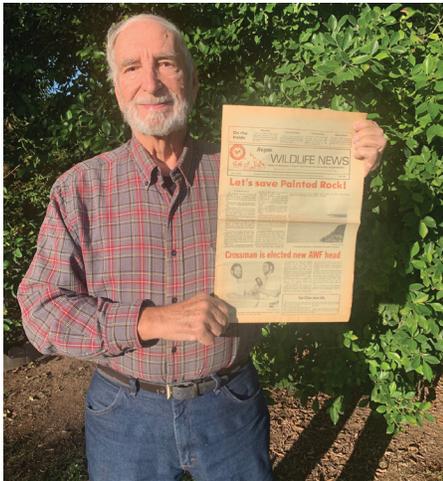


and enduring contributions towards the preservation of Arizona's wildlife, the protection of its natural resources, and the promotion of the state's outdoor heritage.

Bill made a huge, positive impact on Arizona and the nation before his passing in 1975 at the age of 52. According to his daughters Dianne Murphy, Joanne Winter, and Barbara Owen, "For the short time he was on this earth, our Dad made a huge mark on the state of Arizona, the nation, and the world through his leadership in the wise management and conservation of our natural resources, ranging from air to water and everything in between. It boggles the mind to think of what else he could have accomplished if he had been with us a few more years. But, he lives on in the hearts and minds of all those who knew him! We are so proud of him."

Alan Crossman: 1978-1980

Alan Crossman became engaged with AWF when he moved to Arizona after serving in the Navy. During Alan's tenure at AWF, focal work included barbed wire fence removal and issues of overgrazing. He also recalls building stock tanks to provide water for wildlife, and collaborating with prison inmates, who enjoyed the opportunity to work outdoors. Alan recalls, "I had always been active in outdoor recreation and recognized that by serving on the AWF board, I could truly contribute to the development of strong ethics in outdoor activities, from firearms instruction to the introduction of new hunters to the field. Acting as president was a double-edged sword, however. I became so busy every weekend supporting sportsmen's clubs' projects around the state that I had very little time for pursuing my own outdoor passions."



Alan holding a copy of the Wildlife News, or "Green Sheet" as it was called, from when he was elected President of the Board.

Alan is impressed to see how professional AWF has grown since his presidency. "We were a much smaller organization, with a lot less political influence. Today I am particularly impressed with the quarterly news magazine. Back when I was president, our version of the newspaper was called "The Green Sheet," and I still have copies."

Interestingly, Alan's wife Meg is related to AWF's first president, Tom McCullough, and our 13th president, James Babbitt. McCullough served two terms and was instrumental in establishing the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.

Mark Hullinger: 1995-1996

Mark Hullinger was president of AWF for one year and has stayed quite active within AWF as well as other conservation organizations such as our affiliate,



Mark is presented with the Governor's Award for Hunter Education Instructor of the Year.

the Arizona Antelope Foundation. He is an avid conservationist, hunter, angler, and educator. In 1990, he was presented the Governor's Award for Hunter Education Instructor of the Year as well as a Conservation Award for his work on riparian habitat projects.

"In my 11 years on the Arizona Wildlife Federation Board of Directors and my term as President, I was honored to work with some really great people. I saw honor, dignity, and integrity displayed so many times by our board and many of the officials we worked with. Of the many projects we worked on, the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) classes are some of the most lasting," said Mark Hullinger.

With fellow past president, Don Farmer, Mark worked to get BOW started in Arizona. They are a huge reason why BOW is sponsored by AWF and is so successful today. Mark has also been an active BOW instructor for 28 years! He hasn't just taught the women of BOW — he's also mentored many new instructors along the way.

Ryna Rock: 2007-2010

Ryna Rock has been a long-time supporter of the Arizona Wildlife Federation. Whether that's been in her role as a president for three years, her work on the Arizona Wildlife News Magazine as an editor, writer, and game meat recipe-provider, or her appreciation for the Arizona Wildlife Federation's history, she has been an enormous advocate for AWF for the last several decades.

Ryna is also a proud conservationist who has used her voice to advocate for Arizona's wildlife and wild places for years.

“Capturing with words what Arizona Wildlife Federation means to me after four-plus decades is challenging. Many opportunities I've experienced come to mind — meeting, working with, and learning from dedicated conservationists; days spent on wild lands in Arizona, full of purpose and hard work; keeping Arizona's oldest conservation organization alive and relevant; great memories in my *Golden Years*. That about sums it up!” said Ryna Rock.



Tom Mackin: 2010-2015

Tom Mackin is quite well known in conservation circles in Arizona. He was nominated as Flagstaff Citizen of the Year in 2022 for his decades of work as a dedicated outdoor volunteer with the U.S. Forest Service, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Friends of Northern Arizona Forests (FoNAF), and for his time with AWF.

He was similarly awarded in 2019 when he received a lifetime achievement award from the AZGFD for his volunteer service with the Department. Tom is a strong leader who in his time with FoNAF, presided over a 300% increase in volunteer hours — that's not small stuff! We are proud to have FoNAF as one of our affiliates.

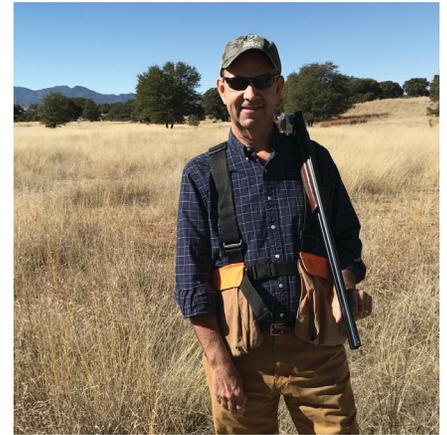


“I served as President of the AWF from June of 2010 through May of 2015. I was very fortunate to have a dedicated and supportive Board of Directors during my tenure. We worked on many external issues but I was very pleased when we finally got a handle on the fiscal responsibilities of managing the AWF within our means,” said Tom about his presidency with AWF.

Brad Powell: 2015-2022

Brad Powell is our immediate Past President of the AWF Board and is instrumental in the work that we continue to accomplish. In 2021, the National Wildlife Federation honored him with the Charlie Shaw Conservation Partnership Award, celebrating Brad's success in growing the AWF's capacity and influence in the region, and his leadership in redesigning how affiliates collaborate to achieve the Federation's shared conservation goals. He's been involved with a variety of conservation organizations throughout the years and is a 32-year veteran of the U.S. Forest Service, including serving as former supervisor of the Tongass National Forest, the Davy Crockett National Forest, and the entire Northwest Region.

According to Brad, “I have spent most of my life focused on public lands and ensuring that science, not politics, drove key decisions. There are many wildlife-oriented organizations in Arizona but few are politically balanced, are based on sound science, and embrace the full spectrum of wildlife users. This uniqueness attracted me to the Arizona Wildlife



Federation over 15 years ago and I have served on the Board since then. I was the Board Vice President for 5 years and President for 6 years. During my time as President, I'm proud of the transition that AWF made from an organization that was dependent on the Board for almost all of its work to having an Executive Director and a professional staff to help achieve our goals with a strong financial position to provide for future growth. As Arizona continues to grow, the stresses on our public lands and wildlife habitats will increase. It will be essential for the Arizona Wildlife Federation to continue its growth and aggressively help provide solutions for our State.”

Affiliate Spotlight: South Eastern Arizona Sportsmen Club



In this issue of AWN, we spotlight one of our newest affiliates, the **South Eastern Arizona Sportsmen Club**.

The Sportsmen’s Club’s mission is to be involved the conservation of wildlife, habitat, and natural resources. They work to educate their members and the public on firearm safety and conservation issues, while supporting and defending the second amendment of the United States Constitution. The Club provides recreational opportunities and organized activities related to conservation and sportsmanship to their members and the public, and they generate funds to promote and enhance local wildlife populations.

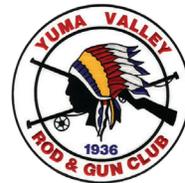
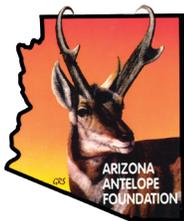
Sportsmen’s Club members regularly organize and participate in conservation efforts such as habitat improvement and wildlife water supply projects. The Club

also offers public seminars, hunter education classes (for youth and the public), and other outreach opportunities. They partner with numerous other local nonprofit organizations in the region — including AWF!

On the last Saturday of February each year, The Sportsmen Club holds their annual fundraiser, The Big Buck Benefit, which raises funds for habitat projects throughout the year.

AWF is pleased to welcome South Eastern Arizona Sportsmen Club as a new affiliate, and we look forward to continuing our work with them for many years to come! Check out South Eastern Arizona Sportsmen Club on their website and see how you can get involved:

<https://seazsc.com/>



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