

# Arizona Wildlife News



Spring 2020

Volume 63

Issue 1



# 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 News Magazine

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 at [awf@azwildlife.org](mailto:awf@azwildlife.org) for details.

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# In This Issue



|  |    |
|--|----|
| Message from the President                       | 3  |
| Regional Roundup                                 | 4  |
| Camo-at-the-Capitol 2020                         | 11 |
| Conservation Corner with Lew Carpenter           | 12 |
| Michael Cravens - AWF's New Advocacy Coordinator | 14 |
| Fostering a Life-Long Love                       | 15 |
| Spotlight on Affiliates                          | 16 |
| Volunteering for Wildlife                        | 18 |
| Bow Delux Report                                 | 20 |
| Camp Cook  | 21 |
| Ranger Rick Magazine                             | 22 |
| Become a Member! - AWF Membership Application    | 23 |

## ARIZONA WILDLIFE NEWS

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
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## ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATION 2019/20 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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| <b>VP of Operations</b>         | Glen Dickens         |
| <b>VP of Conservation</b>       | John Hamill          |
| <b>Secretary</b>                | Trica Oshant Hawkins |
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| <b>NWF Representative</b>       | Bob Vahle            |
| <b>Immediate Past President</b> | Tom Makin            |

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|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| Bob Vahle    | Pat Headington |
| John Hamill  | Duane Aubuchon |
| Loyd Barnett | Amanda Moors   |

## DIRECTORS AT LARGE

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Mike Matthiesen      | Duane Aubuchon  |
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| Ben Alteneder        |                 |

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|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Executive Director</b>   | Scott Garlid    |
| <b>Outreach Director</b>    | Nikki Julien    |
| <b>Advocacy Coordinator</b> | Michael Cravens |

## OTHER OFFICERS

|                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
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| <b>NWF Regional Rep.</b>       | Lew Carpenter |
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Front and Back Cover Photos Courtesy of Amanda Moors  
Articles by: Lew Carpenter, Scott Garlid, Trica Oshant Hawkins, Nikki Julien, Glen Dickens, Valerie Morrill, Linda Dightmon, TJ Lauderback

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION



# A Message from the President



When we sent the last issue of Arizona Wildlife News or even last month's E-news, we had no idea how much our world and daily lives would change over the course of a few short weeks. In planning this issue of AWN, we found ourselves asking how public lands and wildlife could still be relevant when human lives and the global economy faced significant uncertainty from the COVID-19 pandemic. Our conclusion is that while our lives may change, our public lands and wildlife will continue to need our help. We are thankful that we are part of a wonderful, caring community who steps up in difficult times.

AWF has been your champion since 1923, working tirelessly to educate and advocate for wildlife and public lands in Arizona through good times and bad. Your continued support gives us hope that wildlife and public lands will be enjoyed for generations to come. Thank you once again in these challenging times for being part of our caring community.

Reflecting on the last year, the Arizona Wildlife Federation has again been busy giving wildlife a voice in our state and nation's capital and working with our land management agencies to ensure that wildlife and its habitats will be here for future generations. Conservation of Arizona's wildlife is non-partisan, and last year with your help, the AWF led the charge to protect wildlife habitats on Arizona's public lands. We brought

voice to the concerns about the State's efforts to take these lands out of public ownership. We led the way to prevent uranium mines near the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon. We fought to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, one of America's greatest conservation laws. We continued to lead efforts to ensure that new land management plans for Arizona's public lands protect and increase our state's wildlife populations. We worked on issues involving the Mexican gray wolf, desert bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and wild horses and burros.

Once again, this year in the Arizona's legislature there are a few bills that were introduced that would have negative impacts on public lands and wildlife habitat. In particular, Rep. Mark Finchem (who has been a part of multiple bad public lands bills in the past) and Sen. Sonny Borrelli introduced legislation (HB2092 / S1046) that would prohibit the sale, gifting, or granting of land to the federal government. Their argument is that federally managed lands limit property tax revenues for Arizona, but if you listen and read closely there is also an underlying intent to establish a foundation for the state to take over and ultimately sell off public lands. These bills are wrong on many levels, but the legislator's lack of understanding of the value of public lands to Arizona's citizens and the outdoor recreation economy coupled with an unconstitutional infringement on the rights of private land owners make these bills particularly egregious. With your help, AWF continues to actively advocate for public lands at our state capitol. Please read more about how we recently connected legislators with hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreation lovers at our "Camo-at-the-Capitol" event on page 11.

I'm also pleased to share that our Arizona Wildlife Federation staff continues to grow our capacity and expertise. In March, Michael Cravens joined the AWF staff as our Advocacy and Communications Coordinator. Michael is a biologist, avid sportsman, passionate outdoor enthusiast and in short, a perfect fit for AWF. I encourage you to read more about Michael on page 14 of this issue. The AWF Board of Directors has also selected Scott Garlid, who has been our staff Conservation Director for the last two years, to be AWF's new Executive Director. Scott has a track record of strong conservation leadership and success in managing organizations, and the board is pleased to have chosen an outstanding leader to guide the organization as we continue to grow. Please join me in welcoming Michael and Scott to their new roles.

Starting with the next issue of AWF's Arizona Wildlife News, Scott will be taking over this column with a "Message from the Executive Director." Meanwhile, I'm not going anywhere and will continue to serve as President of the AWF board--conservation in Arizona is just too important, and the future of AWF is simply too exciting to miss! Stay healthy and thank you for your continued support.

Yours in Conservation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Powell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brad Powell  
President 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

Bob Vahle continues to stay abreast and involved in activities on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF). Because land management activities (particularly on large acreages of the ASNF) may affect the management of wildlife, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreational opportunities for the public, tracking, evaluating, and providing comments and recommendations to the ASNF on these issues are a very high priority for the AWF. Key topics that Bob is currently following include Travel Management, 4FRI, and the Heber Wild Horse Territory Management Plan. For a more complete background on these, refer to Region 1 Highlights in the fall 2019 issue of the Arizona Wildlife News.

### Travel Management

The intent of the U.S. Forest Service's "Travel Management Rule (TMR)" is "to provide for a system of National Forest System roads, National Forest System trails, and areas on National Forest System lands that are designated by vehicle class and if appropriate, by time of year, for motor vehicle use. After these roads, trails, and areas are designated, motor vehicle use, not in accordance with these designations is prohibited". In order to comply with the Travel Management Rule, the ASNF developed and published (October 2010) a "Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)" for Motorized Public Travel Management Plan for public review and comment.

As a result of the needs of ASNF staff to finalize the ASNF Land Management Plan (completed in October 2015), and the large scale impacts of the 2011 Wallow Fire (which changed the baseline environmental conditions analyzed in the 2010 Travel Management DEIS), the ASNF staff made the decision to defer work on the plan and later revise the plan based on changed conditions. As a result of this time lag in reissuing a Proposed Travel Management for public review, the sale and use of OHVs has exploded and the adverse impacts of their unregulated cross-country travel has significantly increased within the ASNF. Consequently, the ASNF will be the last National Forest in the National Forest System in the U.S. to hopefully complete and implement a Travel Management Plan. In August 2019 a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIS) for Motorized Public Travel Management Plan on the ASNF was published and made available for public review and comment through October 29, 2019. The RDEIS identifies the same four key issues as recognized in the 2010 DEIS which were:

1) Restricting motorized access for dispersed camping; 2) Restricting motorized big game retrieval; and 3) Impacts to resources (i.e., terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species and their habitats, soil, and water, and cultural resources); and 4) Economic Loss of revenues and jobs. The RDEIS has narrowed the number of alternatives to three (Alternative 1- No Action, Alternative 2 - Modified Preferred Action; and an Alternative 3 – which was the most restrictive) and made significant changes related to these issues. The AWF has reviewed the RDEIS and submitted comments to the ASNF which have also been recently provided to all AWF Board and Staff members.

#### **Four Forests Restoration Initiative (4FRI)**

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the second analysis area under the 4FRI initiative titled the “Rim Country Project” was published in May 2019 and made available to the public for review. The 90-day comment period for the public started on October 19, 2019 and was reviewed and evaluated by the AWF. Highlights of the Rim Country Project DEIS include the following:

The DEIS has identified 3 alternatives (Alternative 1 - No Action, Alternative 2 - Modified Proposed Action, and Alternative 3 –Focused Restoration) that address 7 key issues. The key issues that were used to develop the alternatives are: 1) treatments in Mexican spotted owl - Protected Activity Centers (PACs); 2) treatments in northern goshawk habitat; 3) large tree retention; 4) dwarf mistletoe mitigation; 5) Economics; 6) smoke/air quality; and 7) roads.

- The DEIS Alternative 2 - Modified Proposed Action proposes to mechanically thin trees and/or implement prescribed fire on up to 953,130 acres within the Rim Country Project area using a variety of mechanical treatments (e.g., intermediate thinning, stand improvement thinning, single tree selection, group selection) and prescribed fire treatments. This alternative also includes restoration activities to restore: 1) 1,230 acres of aspen; 2) 18,570 of savanna; 3) 36,320 acres of grassland; 4) hydrologic function of 6,720 acres of meadows; 5) 14,560 acres of riparian areas for aquatic stream habitat; 6) approximately 184 springs; and 7) function and habitat of 777 miles of streams.
- In addition, the DEIS Alternative 2 proposes to decommission up to 200 miles of existing system roads on the Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, and up to 290 miles on the Tonto National Forest along with decommissioning up to 800 miles of unauthorized roads on these three National Forests. How these road decommissioning projects will effectively integrate with the Travel Management Plans for each of these three National Forests particularly the ASNF will be an issue that the AWF should closely monitor and evaluate.

#### **Heber Wild Horse Territory (HWHT) - Management Plan Update**

It appears that the ASNF is a long way from completing the NEPA process and developing the management plan for the HWHT. Consequently, the development and finalization of a management plan to control populations of feral “wild horses” on the ASNF may extend well into 2020 and beyond. The next steps as identified in the ASNF web site link regarding development of an HWHT Management Plan are as follows:

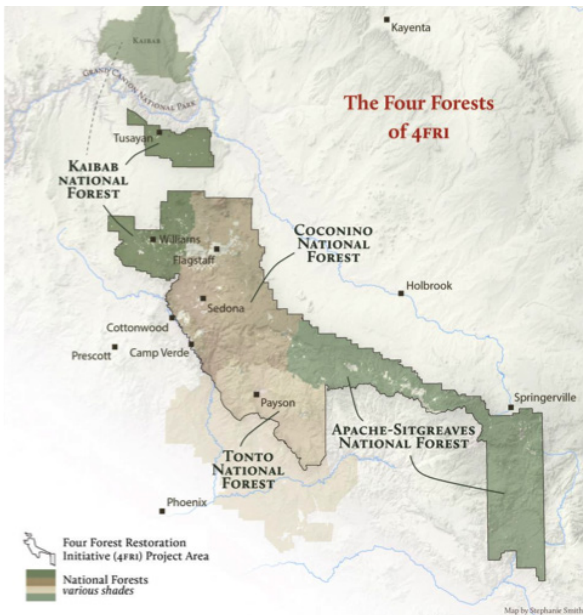
1. A draft proposed action for development of the Heber Wild Horse Territory Management Plan will be sent to people and organizations who have indicated an interest in the NEPA planning process. This public scoping process solicits comments on the proposal. Once the Forest Service receives public comments, it will incorporate them into the proposal and its analysis where possible. Substantive issues may also result in development of addition alternatives for analysis, as appropriate.
2. The Forest Service will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations.
3. Once the environmental assessment is prepared, The Forest Service will make the EA available for public review and allow another comment period.
4. The Forest Service will incorporate any needed changes identified during the comment period and prepare a draft decision notice based on the analysis. The draft decision notice and environmental assessment will be made available to those who commented during the comment period.
5. After the objection period has ended, a final decision notice will be issued.
6. Once the decision notice is completed, a territory management plan will be developed for the Heber Wild Horse Territory.



**For more information regarding these large scale land management projects on the ASNF visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/asnf/home>**

# Region 2 Director's Report

By John Hamill, Regional Director (interim)



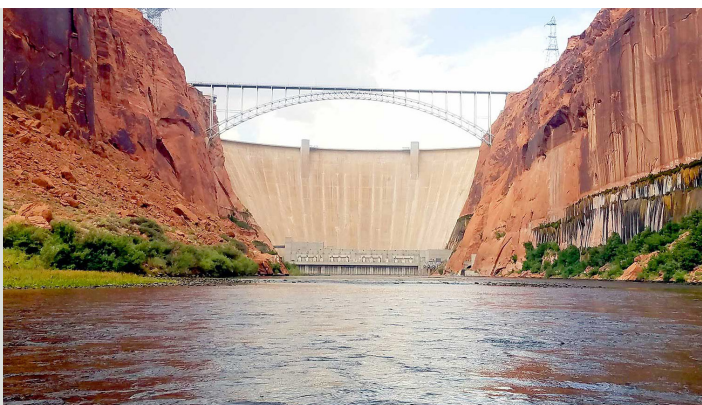
## 4FRI Update

AWF has been an active participant and contributor to the Four Forest Restoration Initiative or 4FRI. 4FRI includes more than 30 stakeholder groups (including AWF) and the Forest Supervisors and staff of the Coconino, Kaibab, Tonto and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. 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, foster quality habitat to support healthy populations of native plants and animals, and support thriving human communities by enhancing outdoor recreation and an economically viable forest restoration industry. Since 2010, only 130,000 acres have been treated by mechanical thinning, far less than the 800,000 acre goal established for the 4FRI effort. The Forest Service recently issued a new 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, support existing industry, and attract new sustainable industries. This major difference between this previous RFP's is the longer (20 year) term of the new contract. Several existing 4FRI contactors at the November 4FRI stakeholder meeting indicated that future industry investments in the mechanical thinning effort will depend on the timely issuance of new long-term contracts.

In other 4FRI news, the comment period for the 4FRI Rim Country Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is open until January 16, 2020. 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 would treat up to approximately 950,000 acres with fire. The DEIS also calls for restoration of streams and aquatic resources such as springs, wetlands, and riparian habitat across the planning area.

## Glen Canyon Dam—Lees Ferry 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. As a representative of recreation fishing interests on the AMWG our goal is to advocate 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. Our current focus is to work with the National Park Service and AZGFD to implement an "incentive harvest program" to control the expansion of a growing brown trout population in Lees Ferry. We are also advocating for management actions such as modifying flow regimes from Glen Canyon Dam that will improve the diversity and production of aquatic insects, implementing a temperature control device at Glen Canyon Dam to allow for regulating the temperature of water releases, and implementing high flow release during the spring instead of the fall.



# Region 3 Director's Report

By Loyd Barnett, Regional Director

Spring 2020

## Land Management

In November the Prescott National Forest issued a decision on the Chino Landscape Restoration Project. This analysis looked at a large area – about 484 thousand acres – and it prioritized needed vegetative treatments to achieve desired ecological conditions on specific smaller areas. Prescribed burning and tree thinning are the most common treatments, along with some erosion control activities and road decommissioning. The AWF, and our affiliate the Arizona Antelope Foundation, provided input at both the scoping and draft environmental analysis steps. We recommended early emphasis on treatments in the grasslands and juniper grasslands as a part of the Central Arizona Grasslands Conservation Strategy, in coordination with the Arizona Game & Fish Department. Within those we recommended prioritizing areas most in need of treatment to provide connectivity and facilitate movement for pronghorn antelope. We also recommended seeking opportunities for partnerships. On-the-ground treatments have begun.



## Verde River

The second State of the Verde Watershed conference was held in October, 2019. This included a new approach - a watershed scorecard. This process was developed several years ago and has been applied in several countries and in a few locales in the United States. Scientists from the University of Maryland worked with the Friends of the Verde River and their cooperators, including land management and regulatory agencies, to prepare the first iteration. Categories of water, habitat and communities, with a number of indicators for each, were rated for seven sub-watersheds of the Verde River Basin. Although having variable degrees of resolution, this first effort helps to identify opportunities for improvements through management activities and/or investments.

One item brought out at the conference was in water quality where the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), along with cooperators, is using new technology, plus a new service from “man’s best friend”. For the last year drones have been used for collecting water quality samples from the Verde River. With these, sampling time is greatly reduced, and samples can be safely collected during high water events. Now, ADEQ has obtained the service of “poop smelling” dogs. These dogs have been trained to detect the smell of human fecal material, as distinguished from that of other species. Such locations help ADEQ to determine where to take samples for E.coli which may sometimes be present due to leaks or breaks in sewer lines near a stream, e.g., Oak Creek.

One item regularly discussed is flow in the Verde River and how it may be affected by other water withdrawals. For perspective, in 1950 there were 226 known wells in the Verde Valley. By 1974 it had risen to 1630, and in 2017 it had ballooned to more than 8900. As discussed in previous reports, there is an ongoing effort to reduce the amount of stream withdrawals for irrigation ditches. The Nature Conservancy, aided by grant money from both federal funds and private foundations, has spearheaded efforts to automate headgates of a few ditches, so that only the amount needed for crops is withdrawn, instead of flowing full and the excess emptying into the river some miles downstream. A volunteer water exchange with several companies participating, including vineyards, has also left some additional water in the river.



Successful collaborative efforts involving both public and private entities draw interest and investment from a number of private foundations, which has been the case with the Verde. Helped by financing from grants, several farm properties are now protected with conservation easements from the booming residential development in the Verde Valley. The location of several, along with the Rocking River Ranch state park, provides a mile wide undeveloped corridor across the valley between the Coconino and Prescott National Forests. Success also draws attention from corporations for their charitable donations. Pepsi Cola has recently provided some grant funds.

Conserving Wildlife and Habitat

www.azwildlife.org

# Region 4 Director's Report

By Pat Headington, Regional Director



## The Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club (YVRGC) Mike Mitchell Dove Hunter's BBQ

The YVRGC Dove Hunter's BBQ was once again a huge success with over 300 attending the event held at the Yuma Convention Center. This is the largest fundraising event generating revenues for wildlife projects and youth programs the club delivers throughout the year. A new bucket raffle prize table was added for the kids attending the event.

## Wounded Warrior Dove Hunt

YVRGC volunteers prepared breakfast on September 1st and 2nd for the Wounded Warrior Dove Hunt held at the Gary Ware Memorial Range. Twenty-two wounded veterans attended the two day hunt accompanied by family members and mentors. VFW Post# 8242, Sprague's Sports, and YVRGC club members were presented with autographed flags as a token of appreciation for their support of the event. Bernardo's Pizza delivered a Stromboli lunch on Saturday after the hunt.

## Clint Curry Memorial Youth Dove Hunt

Forty-two young dove hunters accompanied by family members enjoyed a great dove hunt in Dome Valley on September 1st. Representatives from the Region 4 Office of the AZGFD were on site selling licenses and stamps. Several mentors were also moving around throughout the morning helping with shooting technique and finding downed birds. Everyone was treated to an "all you can eat" hot dog lunch. The event was sponsored by Sprague's Sports, Vortex Optics, and Ruger Firearms.

## Desert Doves Women's Hunt

The inaugural Desert Doves Women's Dove Hunt was held September 7th in the Gila Valley. Fourteen women, along with their spouses and mentors, participated in their very first dove hunt. These ladies began this introduction to hunting in June attending a skeet shoot at Adair Range and will culminate with a Women's Javelina hunt in February for those who were drawn.

## Land and Travel Management

With the completion of the bypass road around private property holdings on the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, conversations have shifted to an additional private holding further south. Access through this private holding has not yet been denied to the public but could be in the future.



# Region 5 Director's Report

By Glen Dickens, Vice President and Former Region 5 Director

## Introducing Duane Aubuchon!

We are proud to introduce our latest Board member and newly appointed AWF Southeast Arizona Region 5 Director, Duane Aubuchon. A native of southern Arizona, Duane received his BS in Wildlife Management from the University of Arizona in 1987 and retired from a very successful 30-year career with the Arizona Game and Fish Department in June, 2019. His various positions included working for the AZGFD's Nongame Program; District Wildlife Manager in Parker and Strawberry; Regional Habitat Specialist in Pinetop; Regional Habitat Program Manager in Kingman; and Wildlife Manager Field Supervisor in both Kingman and Safford, where he coordinated the activities of five Wildlife Managers to implement outreach, game and fish management, wildlife habitat, and law enforcement programs. As a member of the Arizona Wildlife Federation since 2000, Duane was appointed to Arizona Wildlife Trophies Committee serving from 2004-2011. Duane has also been an active member of the Wildlife Society (TWS), Southwest Section, and the Arizona Chapter for over 30





years, served on the Conservation Affairs Committee, and was the Recording Secretary for the Arizona Chapter for two terms. He received TWS recognition as a Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB) in 1998. He has been a member of Safari Club International since 2000 and is currently employed in that organizations Record Book Department. In addition to his duties as our Region 5 Director, Duane will represent the AWF on the AGFD's Habitat Partnership Committee. Welcome aboard Duane!

### Meetings/Organizational Events

On September 27-29, 2019, our long-time AWF affiliate, the Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF), completed its final of 8 years of fence modification projects on Allen Flat northwest of Willcox. Thirty-five volunteers modified 3.5 miles of fence to make them pronghorn friendly. This was a milestone for what became a \$1.7M effort to restore all pronghorn populations and their respective habitat zones in Southeast Arizona. The effort was led by the AAF, in partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and private landowners/ranchers and grazing lessees.

Glen Dickens, AWF and AAF Vice President, gave a presentation on the restoration efforts of an 8-year pronghorn grant at the first Southwestern Grasslands Research and Management Workshop held at the University of Arizona on November 7th. The event was sponsored by the Arizona Cross-Watershed Network, with support from the UA Cooperative Extension, US Fish and Wildlife Service, AZ Departments of Forestry and State Lands, Pima County, and the AZGFD. It was extremely successful with over 120 attendees.

### Lonestar Mine

Receiving little public attention is the new Lonestar Mine north of Safford. The new mine has a footprint of 6140 acres, all on land the Freeport Mining Company acquired in another land exchange with the BLM. The ore body is at the base of Lone Star Mountain and to get to it, the plan of operation is to remove the mountain down to its basal elevation. This is currently occurring. Because it is entirely on private land, the only opportunity for comment came with the application for a Clean Water Act 404 permit due to impacts to 90.27 acres of Waters of the US. The AZGFD provided comments and mitigation suggestions for the project, none of which were implemented. Concerns centered on impacts to bighorn sheep and water levels in Bonita Creek.



### Rosemont Mine Now in “The Litigation Phase”

Rosemont Mine construction is likely to be delayed until at least 2023 because of the federal court ruling against the mine. “We are sort of assuming a restart of construction in 2023,” said David Bryson, senior vice president and chief financial officer for Hudbay Minerals Inc., the company proposing to build the open-pit copper mine southeast of Tucson. “We think that it provides a reasonable allowance for the conclusion of litigation, as well as remobilization in order to sort of get back to a point where we could start construction.” The mine, in the planning stages since 2005, has been in legal limbo since Judge Soto halted work July 31, one day before its construction was scheduled to start. Soto’s ruling overturned the U.S. Forest Service’s June 2017 approval of the \$1.9 billion mine project. Soto ruled that the Forest Service had erroneously authorized Hudbay to deposit waste rock and mine tailings on 2,447 acres of forest land, without proof that Hudbay’s mining claims for the lands are valid. His ruling threw shock waves into the U.S. mining industry since it could make it more difficult for any company to put mine wastes on federal land in the future.



### Proposed Interstate 11

Arizona is continuing the process through a Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Study to identify a Selected Corridor Alternative between Nogales and Wickenburg, Arizona. The I-11 Draft Tier 1 EIS and Preliminary Section 4(f) Evaluation was completed and made available for public review and comment from April 5, 2019 through July 8, 2019. All comments and questions will be addressed in the Final Tier 1 EIS, expected to be completed and available for review in 2020. Wildlife concerns focus on the alternatives west of Tucson that could fragment wildlife corridors and increase habitat loss.

### Border Wall

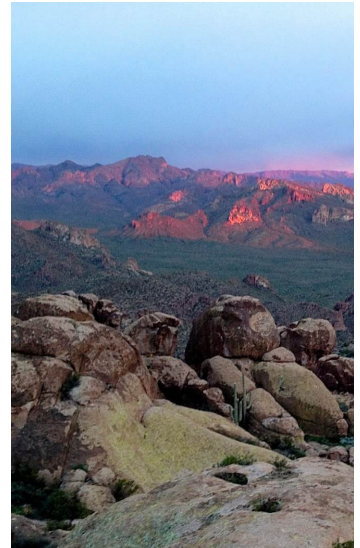
Construction has begun on a section of the planned border wall from Douglas, Arizona east towards New Mexico and through the San Bernardino Wildlife Refuge. Though there are currently no plans to take this wall through the Peloncillo Mountains; blocking that valley could create a barrier to wildlife including Gould’s turkey, mule deer, jaguar, etc.

# Region 6 Director's Report

By Amanda Moors, Regional Director

## State Land Issues

There has been an increasing trend over the last several years in Southeastern Arizona for State Land lessees to lock gates, preventing access to or across State Trust Lands. Though there are State Laws preventing such actions, the State Land Department and Game and Fish Department have not pursued any legal action to remedy the situation, relying on a cooperative approach to resolve the issue. Recently, a 25-year-old protocol for dealing with the illegally locked gates was revised and agreed to by both agencies. Some of the minor violations are being addressed before dealing with the larger problem areas. Some lessees have stated they want the action decided in the courtroom.



## Tonto National Forest Plan Revision

The Tonto National Forest has issued its draft Land Management Plan (aka Forest Plan) and has gone through the public process of hosting meetings to get input from the public and technical partners. If you would like to review the plan, please visit:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd680654.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd680654.pdf)

They also released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), in three volumes. Those can be accessed on the following webpage, along with additional plan information:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tonto/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd595481#/participation>

The draft forest plan reflects changes in social, economic and ecological conditions since the current plan was approved in 1985. It outlines the strategic management for 2.9 million acres of national forest for the next 10 to 15 years and reflects input from elected officials, tribes, community members and many others. The USFS states that the draft plan is built on a foundation of public input, best available science, and emphasizes multiple uses supported by healthy ecosystems. These ecosystems provide clean drinking water for downstream communities and help to fuel the forest products, grazing, and mining industries, and the recreation opportunities on the forest



Throughout January and February, the Tonto NF held a series of public meetings to discuss the draft Forest Plan and draft environmental impact statement and provide opportunities for comment. Technical partner meetings were also held in late February. Maps and other planning materials were available for review and planning team members were present to answer questions.

**For more information, please contact Kenna Belsky, Forest Planner, and the rest of the plan revision team at [SM.FS.tontoplan@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.tontoplan@usda.gov) or by phone at 602-225-5200.**

## Salt River Horses

As many of you are aware, back in 2015 the USFS proposed rounding up and removing the feral horses located on public land along the Salt River. Back then, they estimated there were about 100 horses. After public outcry, the state legislature and Governor Ducey created a law to protect the horses from removal. After that law passed, the USFS entered into an agreement with the Arizona Department of Agriculture to manage the horses. For the short-term management of the herd, the AZ Department of Agriculture contracted with a non-profit group called Salt River Wild Horse Management Group. The Salt River Wild Horse Management group has been raising funds and uses about \$400,000 a year to manage the herd. That management includes feeding the horses, providing medical care as well as implementing a darting program to provide birth control so that the herd size can be decreased over time. According to the AZ Dept. of Agriculture, this darting program has been going on for about a year and appears to be having the desired effect, as several mares are coming into heat but not becoming pregnant. In 2017, the Arizona Game and Fish Department flew an aerial survey and counted 414 horses.



## Region 6 Director's Report Cont'd.

Because the number of horses exceeds the number that can survive there on native vegetation, the Salt River Horse Management Group has had to provide supplemental feeding to keep the horses from starving. Now some of the horses have contracted a highly contagious disease. In September 2019, a swab sample taken from a Salt River horse has tested positive for Strangles. This horse disease is not contagious to humans, but very contagious to all horses. Horseback riders may want to consider riding in other locations on the Tonto National Forest. If you own horses and hike at the Salt River, please also be aware that it can be present in the soil, so clean off your clothes and boots before you go near your own horses.

Over the last year, there has been a collaborative process at work where stakeholders and agency personnel held meetings to come up with recommendations for the long-term management of the herd. The last meeting of that collaborative group was held in mid-October and they expected to present their recommendations by the end of December. Those recommendations would then be evaluated by the AZ Department of Agriculture and USFS to come up with the long-term herd management plan. As always, the AWF hopes those recommendations will be based on science and what is best for the health of our public lands.

## Camo-at-the-Capitol 2020

By Scott Garlid

The Arizona Wildlife Federation once again hosted the Annual Camo-at-the-Capitol event bringing sportsmen and sportswomen together with Arizona State Legislators on March 9th, 2020. Once again, wild game tasting was one of the highlight of the event with savory offerings of elk, whitetail, javelina, and bear drawing rave reviews from legislators, fellow sportsmen, and interested passers-by.



The objective of Camo-at-the-Capitol is to educate sportsmen and women on advocacy for public lands and how to speak up effectively as a group for the importance of our sporting heritage. Attendees heard from Amanda Reeves, a policy advisor at Snell and Wilmer and a past state legislator, who shared what it takes to be an effective advocate at the state legislature. Arizona Game and Fish Legislative Liaison, Ed Sanchez, talked about the current legislative issues affecting the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Jesse Duebel, the Executive Director of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, shared his personal story of growing from an avid sportsmen to becoming a passionate advocate as well. He also shared why it's important for sportsmen and women across the west to pay attention to the issues that affect hunting, fishing, and the outdoors, and to make sure we are heard by our legislators.

There were indoor meetings with state legislators, and several even made it down to the lawn for informal visits and to share their views on the importance of hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation with the group. "There are few things more rewarding than watching legislators live-streaming themselves eating bear-shoulder tacos on the lawn of the state capitol," noted Jesse Duebel. "The food was spectacular. I learned a lot from this event and I honestly can't wait until we do it again next year in New Mexico."

Thanks to all the affiliate groups who attended: Arizona Antelope Foundation, Arizona Elk Society, Arizona Predator Callers, Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club, and especially to Trout Unlimited and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers both for co-hosting. Thanks also for TU's fly casting on the lawn, BHA's perennial best outdoor cooking, and the "mystery sack" game to spice up the event!



# 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.



### Congress Approves Funding Bill with Important Conservation Programs Included By Lew Carpenter

As the sun set on 2019, Congress approved two legislative packages, including many strong provisions that will further conservation efforts and benefit America's sportsmen and women. One particular highlight is the Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act (Pittman-Robertson Modernization Act), which will strengthen hunters' ongoing support for wildlife conservation and ensure hunting, shooting sports, and outdoor recreation remain central to America's wildlife heritage. One of the federal funding packages released December 16, 2019 - H.R. 1865 - includes funding for the Departments of Agriculture, the Interior, and a number of other federal agencies. As well, many of the sporting-conservation related provisions included in H.R. 1865 are longstanding priorities for the National Wildlife Federation. Agreements of significance to sportsmen include:

- Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act – this provision would provide much needed flexibility to state wildlife agencies to modernize the way they recruit, retain, and reactivate hunters, recreational shooters, and archery enthusiasts growing the ranks and diversity of hunters who support conservation efforts through excise taxes on firearms and equipment.
- Exempting lead ammunition and fishing tackle – this provision exempts lead fishing tackle and ammunition from the purview of the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Increase in funding for the National Wildlife Refuge System – H.R. 1865 provides an increase of \$14 million to bring the total funds available for the operation of the Refuge System to \$502 million for FY20. The Refuge System is made up of 568 individual Refuges that collectively accommodate over 2.4 million hunting-related visits and 7.3 million fishing visits annually.
- Increase in funding to combat the invasive Asian carp - \$25 million is provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service specifically for the purposes of addressing Asian carp, an increase of \$14 million from FY19 enacted levels.
- Increase in funding for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund - \$46 million is provided for on-the-ground wetland conservation for waterfowl and other wetland dependent fish and wildlife species. This is an increase of \$4 million from FY19 enacted levels.
- Increase in funding for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants - \$67 million is provided to the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, an increase of \$3 million from FY19 enacted levels.
- Increase in funding for Wild Horse and Burro Management - \$101 million in total is provided to the Bureau of Land Management for wild horse and burro management.
- Funding for USDA APHIS to combat Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) - \$9 million is provided to the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to combat Chronic Wasting Disease. Five million of the funds are to be allocated directly to state agriculture and wildlife agencies to further develop CWD surveillance, testing, management, and response activities.

“The health of the lands, waters, and wildlife we care deeply about depend on funds generated through the excise tax applied through the Pittman-Robertson Act,” said Marcia Brownlee, program manager for Artemis Sportswomen with the National Wildlife Federation. “The participation of women is one segment of hunting that is increasing, and this legislation can help reach a more diverse demographic and reverse the current decline of hunting participation and conservation funding.”

The Pittman-Robertson Modernization Act would authorize some funding from Pittman-Robertson excise taxes on hunting and shooting equipment to be spent by state wildlife agencies on recruiting and marketing to hunters and recreational shooters in order to reverse declines in hunting participation, which provides funding for wildlife conservation. The bill maintains existing funding streams for wildlife conservation from the excise taxes.

“CSF applauds House and Senate Appropriators for providing funding for some of the most important programs for America’s sportsmen and women,” said Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation (CSF) President Jeff Crane. “We are grateful for the leadership of Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus (CSC) Co-Chair Rep.

Austin Scott and CSC Member Sen. Jim Risch for their commitment over the last two Congresses to secure the inclusion of the Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow’s Needs Act as part of this package. This provision will play a pivotal role in ensuring the future of one of America’s most successful conservation programs, the Pittman-Robertson Fund.”

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, includes an 11% tax on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment that is apportioned to state wildlife agencies each year for wildlife conservation and hunter education. The National Wildlife Federation helped lead a coalition to pass the Pittman-Robertson Act in 1937 when many now-common wildlife species populations were in crisis. Since distributions began in 1939, it has provided \$18.8 billion to state fish and wildlife agencies, all funded by hunters and recreational shooters, and helped recover iconic game species like wild turkey, white-tailed deer, and elk from scarcity to surplus.

However, the number of hunters has declined in recent decades, from 14.1 million hunters in 1991 to 11.5 million by 2016, according to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, & Wildlife-Associated Recreation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and projections forecast that number may continue to drop without the efforts that the Pittman-Robertson Modernization Act will allow.



## The Pittman-Robertson Act Helps Fund Wildlife and Fish Conservation



### Excise Taxes on Outdoor Equipment

**\$6.4 billion**

Amount generated by the Pittman-Robertson Act for wildlife conservation

**11%**

Guns and ammunition

**11%**

Bows and arrows

**10%**

Sport fishing equipment

**\$6.6 billion**

Amount generated by the Sport Fish Restoration Program for fisheries conservation

**3%**

Electric outboard motors

**0%**

Mountain bikes

**0%**

Camping equipment

*“This legislation is critical to bolstering and diversifying the ranks of hunters and anglers who provide the bulk of wildlife conservation funding through state license fees and federal excise taxes on firearms and hunting equipment through the Pittman-Robertson Act.”*

- Mike Leahy  
National Wildlife Federation

# Michael Cravens -

# AWF's New Advocacy Coordinator



The Arizona Wildlife Federation is pleased to welcome Michael Cravens as our new Advocacy Coordinator!



Michael's interests and background make him a perfect fit for the AWF. Michael grew up exploring the densely wooded hills and cold clear rivers of the Missouri Ozarks. His childhood days were filled with chasing all manner of wildlife. Whether it be squirrels, rabbits, and smallmouth bass, or even snakes and salamanders, nothing was off limits to this young and enthusiastic naturalist. Later, Michael earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Organismal, Ecological, and Evolutionary Biology from Southeast Missouri State University.

Through the years that followed, Michael's insatiable thirst for exploring wild places never waned and drove him to travel extensively throughout our own beautiful country and abroad. These travels took him to places as far away as the jungles of Latin America and the Amazon Basin. Whether the Rocky Mountains, the Appalachian Mountains, the Desert Southwest, or the Ozark Mountains of his childhood home, Michael has a deep love and appreciation for all wild places. Of all these, it was the western landscape that held his attention and is now where he put his roots down.

Michael, his wife, two children, and their German shorthaired pointer pup, Edward, call Arizona's Sonoran Desert home. Living in a state with over 50% public land allows them ample opportunity for countless adventures. This opportunity is not taken for granted and is not guaranteed. Today, Michael spends his free time either roaming the mountains and deserts in search of opportunities to bring healthy organic meat home to fill the freezer and feed his family, or he is speaking out against those that threaten the places that allow these opportunities.

In addition to being AWF's new Advocacy Coordinator, Michael holds a position on the executive board of Arizona Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, is certified by 2% for Conservation, and is an ambassador for Hunt to Eat.

Michael can be found on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/mlcoutdoors>.

# Fostering a Lifelong Love

By Nikki Julien - AWF Outreach Director

Spring 2020

## Fostering a Lifelong Love of Wildlife is the Bedrock of Protecting It

“A lizard! Look a lizard!” exclaims a child in Phoenix, as if he has never seen a lizard before. It’s possible he hasn’t. In this day in age when children spend over seven hours on screens and less than ten minutes of unstructured time outside every day, this could very well be his first encounter with a lizard. I hear kids go crazy for even the most common urban wildlife every time I lead a nature walk here in the desert. I love how they suddenly notice, and are in awe of, the butterflies and lizards. Kids go crazy for wildlife (in a good way). And in the absence of large, “wow” animals, even the smallest of the charismatic micro-fauna (such as a ladybug) can become the 8th wonder of the world.

These animals, the common ones we see around us on a nearly daily basis, are the bridges, ambassadors, linkages from our human-built, device-filled world to the mystery of... (dramatic pause) ...nature.

It didn’t used to be this way. Though children have always been fascinated by animals, and many of us retain that fascination into adulthood, there used to be a lot more animals, and a lot more different kinds of animals, in our lives. And there were a lot more of us getting outside to see wildlife. Families regularly went on hunting, fishing, and camping trips and visited parks and wild lands. More families lived on farms. A love for wildlife and wild places was built on these experiences outdoors--whether in the wilds or just seeing the more common animals; the barnyard denizens, the frogs at the neighborhood pond, the birds at the feeder, or the bats flitting into the light of the street lamp on the corner. World Wildlife Fund’s Living Planet Index, which is an indicator of the state of the world’s biodiversity, has fallen by 60% since 1970, indicating devastating declines in animal populations around the world. Equally as bad, is the fact that we don’t go outside enough to see the ones who are left. Richard Louv, in his bestseller, *Last Child in the Woods*, coined the term “nature deficit disorder,” to express our growing disconnect from nature. This disconnect from nature is likely exacerbating the global decline in wildlife.

**Thankfully, there is something we can do to instill and keep the ah-ha! and awe for wildlife in a child.**

#1. Take the youngsters in your life outside more often. Plant a garden. Take a walk in the woods. Throw a ball for the dog. Go on a picnic. Take a child hunting or fishing. The more we can take children outside, the more they have the chance to experience that amazement of the natural world.



That’s it. Just one. It may be a simplistic solution, but it is the bedrock of sustaining the environment for our future, and the future of our wildlife. Research (and good old common sense) has proven that the best way to foster lifelong nature stewardship is for children to spend time in nature with a caring adult.



Okay, there is one more thing you can do... Nurture that craziness for animals by giving the gift of Ranger Rick Magazine. Chock full of fantastic photos of wildlife, as well as fun activities, this is the perfect educational companion to time in nature. Better yet, read it outdoors with the special youngsters in your life.

Conserving Wildlife and Habitat

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## Southern Arizona Quail Forever (SAQF)

With the opening of quail season this last December, Southern Arizona Quail Forever (SAQF) hosted their annual festival in Sonoita, Arizona. There, Nikki Julien, AWF's Outreach Director, got a chance to chat with Zach May, chapter president, to learn about the obsession for these small game birds. Why is there a need for a quail critter group? Quail populations are abundant but fragile. Every year, 80% of quail die off due to a diversity of both natural and human-caused factors. Habitat loss and degradation by far, have the greatest effect on these small birds. SAQF addresses these issues as part of their mission.

While other Arizona specialty game animals might bring in visitors for a short, hunt-related visit, SAQF's membership boasts many out-of-state snowbirds whose own migration perfectly matches quail season. These visitors arrive south to our warmer climate as the hunting season peaks for three quail species (Gambel, scaled, and Mearns) from December to February. That's the first win for SAQF—making the most of a human migration. SAQF's mission is three-fold: to improve habitat and numbers of quail, improving access to public land, and getting more people outdoors. This third one is especially important to May who knows that going outdoors comes first, then engaging in hunting if the person so chooses. For years SAQF focused on youth hunts, and though they still do, they have broadened their reach beyond youth to make outdoors a family affair. They also have monthly meetings that are open to everyone and include interesting speakers.



Their Family Day event in late February at Empire Ranch is open to all and includes activities such as bb gun shooting, fly-tying, casting, archery, skeet and trap shooting, and bird dog demonstrations. Breakfast and lunch are provided and every child attendee gets something to take home. These events allow May to match mentors to participants and he's always got his eye out for a good match—another win for SAQF. In addition to their outdoor skills events, SAQF conducts many in-the-field conservation projects including clean-ups, rebuilding habitat, building water catchments, and building road access to public lands. May discussed a recent clean-up effort at Hog Canyon, accessing the area through the private neighborhood's HOA. Though a clean-up may not seem like a big deal, May considers such actions as symbolic. Clean-ups remind people of the beauty around them, and give them pride in the places they live and recreate in. Wildlife are healthier and happier in these places, too.

As part of their mission, SAQF has been focusing on reintroducing masked bobwhite, which are the only quail in Arizona on the endangered species list. The reintroduction goes slowly if there are not enough parents to raise the broods. However, by using wild, neutered males as surrogate parents, they have created a way for the hatchlings from human-brooded eggs to learn about life as a bobwhite quail and not become imprinted on humans. This way, the chicks learn how to be a bobwhite and are more successful after release. Thanks to their efforts, there are now masked bobwhites reproducing in the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge.



SAQF also works to rebuild habitat, which has lately taken the form of building loose rock check dams. Loose rock check dams are low walls of loosely stacked rock across natural erosion channels. When rainwater flows downhill following a channel, it picks up sediment and debris. Check dams serve to slow the flow and cause some of the sediment to build up behind each dam, reducing erosion and rebuilding the soil level. As the ephemeral waterflow dries, seeds carried along with the sediment sprout, creating food and cover for small, ground dwelling birds. The root systems help prevent future erosion which further helps rainwater to stay where it lands and infiltrate into the soil. This in turn benefits the plant life by making it more abundant, which in turn provides more habitat for quail. Just a little work creating these check dams provides a huge return on investment, and another win for SAQF and wildlife.

The wins here for wildlife include making the most of migrating hunters, matching mentors with newbies, providing surrogate parents for chicks, and rebuilding habitat. SAQF is on the right track for wildlife, public lands, and outdoor enthusiasts. The ultimate winners, takers of the big prize, are the little creatures that benefits most from all of SAQF's efforts: the quail of southern Arizona.



# 3rd Annual Quail Festival

By Glen Dickens - AWF Vice President

Spring 2020

The 3rd Annual QuailFest was held on December 8, 2019 at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Sonoita, Arizona. QuailFest is co-hosted by AWF affiliate, Southern Arizona Quail Forever (lead by President, Zack May) and the Arizona Game and Fish Department (featuring local Wildlife Manager, Brittney Oleson). The festival was again a rousing success and well attended with over 300 participants and 20 vendor and organizational booths.

Mearns quail season officially opened on Friday, December 6th. Mearns quail hunters from across the country converge annually on the area to pursue their quarry. They fill every available trailer rental space in the local community of Patagonia, as well as all the local campgrounds and many motel rooms. Every conceivable bird dog breed is represented with some hunters having as many as four dogs. A quick walk through the parking lot revealed truck license plates from Idaho, Montana, Indiana, Minnesota, South and North Dakota, Wyoming, Alaska, and of course Arizona.



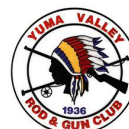
A local bird dog club was on hand to keep the crowds well fed with grilled hot dogs and hamburgers for a \$3 donation. There was also a bird cleaning station and wing aging identification by the AZGFD. One display by the AZGFD included examples of Arizona's "big 4" quail with mounts of Mearns, scaled, Gambel's, and California quail available to examine. The Arizona Wildlife Federation had a table at the festival, manned by Outreach Director, Nikki Julien and Vice President, Glen Dickens. Next to AWF's table was AWF affiliate, the Arizona Antelope Foundation, with a table manned by board members Kara Jensen and Robert Velasco. Many questions were answered and multiple folks took the available handouts and quarterly magazines. A great time was had by all and the AAF and AWF will both be represented again next December at QuailFest 2020. We hope to see you there!

## Our Affiliates

**We value our affiliate relationships. Working together, the AWF and affiliated organizations are better able to address the various conservation concerns that we have in common. This close association allows our voices to be combined on issues and amplifies our messages which reach local, state, and national levels.**



Expanding and Improving  
Arizona's Native and Wild  
Trout Fisheries



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# Volunteering for Wildlife

By Trica Oshant Hawkins and TJ Lauderback

## AWF Affiliates and Volunteers Help Wildlife Through Conservation Projects

The Arizona Wildlife Federation's Volunteer for Wildlife program has been very active since TJ Lauderback joined the AWF team as Volunteer Coordinator. Between October 2019 and March of this year, TJ, along with other AWF volunteers, have participated in ten different wildlife conservation projects with AWF affiliates, agencies, and project sponsors. Many of these "boots-on-the-ground" projects for wildlife conservation are labor intense. They require work such as fence building, digging, wire cutting, debris hauling, brush clearing, and rock moving. Frequently, they occur in remote areas that may require 4x4 access and/or hiking in with equipment. Most of these projects are funded by the sponsoring organizations, some with dollars obtained through grants from sources such as the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Habitat Partnership Committee. Yet, nearly all of the labor in these projects is through volunteers. Wildlife enthusiasts who offer their time and assistance are the lifeblood of these conservation efforts. Over the past half year, these volunteers have removed or modified miles of fencing, cleaned up trash and other debris from acres of habitat, installed or repaired several wildlife watering systems, gathered data on water quality, and constructed numerous loose-rock check dams. These projects improve wildlife habitat, help wildlife movement, and contribute data to wildlife science – all in effort to conserve wildlife.



*TU's Nate Rees gathers water quality data from a remote stream in northern Arizona.*



*Volunteers help YVRGC construct a wildlife water catchment and storage system near Hat Mountain.*

If you are interested in joining AWF in these efforts, sign up on our Volunteer for Wildlife webpage and we'll connect you with projects that help wildlife. Not all projects require intense labor. You can get an idea of the different kinds of volunteer opportunities on our website so visit us at [azwildlife.org/volunteer](http://azwildlife.org/volunteer) for more information and let us know what kind of projects you are interested in. You can also send us an inquiry email at <http://volunteer@azwildlife.org>. Then, when we are all able to get back into the field, we look forward to working with you as a Volunteer for Wildlife.



*Volunteers with ADBSS install a wildlife water catchment and storage system to benefit bighorn sheep and other wildlife at Woodin Ranch.*



*Working with affiliate group, AAF, TJLauderback helps volunteers unroll material to modify fencing to benefit antelope.*



*Working with SAQF, volunteers construct loose-rock check dams to slow rainwater runoff and allow water to infiltrate into the soil.*

## Recent Projects Attended by AWF Volunteers

| Sponsoring Group(s)                    | Wildlife Conservation Project                            |
|--|--|
| Trout Unlimited (TU)                   | Thompson Creek area water quality testing                |
| Arizona Game & Fish Department (AZGFD) | JF Ranch Cleanup   |
| Trout Unlimited                        | Jacob Lake area water quality testing                    |
| Arizona Antelope Foundation / AZGFD    | Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge Fence Modification |
| Arizona Antelope Foundation / AZGFD    | Vekol Valley / BLM Fence Removal Project                 |
| Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club (YVRGC)     | Muggins Mountain Wildlife Water Catchment Installation   |
| Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society   | Woodin Ranch Wildlife Water Catchment Re-development     |
| Arizona Game & Fish Department         | Rafter Ranch Cleanup Project                             |
| Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club             | Hat Mountain Wildlife Water Project                      |
| Southern Arizona Quail Forever (SAQF)  | Loose-Rock Check Dam/Water Catchment Construction        |

Conserving Wildlife and Habitat



*Volunteers on an AAF fencing project pose after a job well done.*



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

www.azwildlife.org

# BOW Deluxe Report

By Linda Dightmon



BOW Deluxe 2020 was held at beautiful Saguaro Lake Ranch nestled in the shadows of the Bulldog Cliffs. I challenge anyone to find a better venue to learn about the Sonoran Desert. The weather cooperated with warm sunny days near 70 degrees and lows in the 50's. We would have had to work pretty darn hard to fail! Late January is simply a great time to play in the desert.

We opened registration in early November and had 45 signed up within the first three days. This is a first for this BOW workshop to fill up so quickly. Often, we are scrambling after the holidays to fill this thing up. We have a limit of 40 women for this workshop but we knew that we would lose some before late January. As it turned out, we ended up with 39 participants. Of the 39 participants, 18 were new to the Arizona BOW program. The oldest lady was 77 and our youngster was 25. We had one woman that traveled all the way from Boston, as well as one from Nebraska and one from Wisconsin. And these are only the ones that I am sure of – there were likely others who came from afar to attend our lovely January BOW.

On Friday evening we tried some mulberry tea, arugula dip, and nopalito salad prepared by the Arizona wild foods class taught by AWF board member, Val Morrill. We also enjoyed a chicken and dumpling dinner prepared by participants in the Dutch oven class. Later that evening, we played a wildlife trivia game. On Saturday night we held our mini-auction fundraiser and grossed \$2,200. During my optics class, the entire group got to observe an adult bald eagle who sat on a power pole about 200 yards away for at least a half an hour. I put the big spotting scope on him or her and the class took turns taking its photo with their phones through the scope (magnified times 70). See what I mean? Hard to mess up a class when all the elements are so cooperative. Once again, a good time was had by all at our January BOW.



**We could not do any of these BOW workshops without the volunteer instructors sharing their knowledge and resources!**

## BOW Deluxe Instructors 2020 (in order of appearance)

|                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Amanda Moors               | AZ Wildlife, Geocaching   |
| Bill Larson                | Fishing                   |
| Val Morrell                | AZ Wild Foods             |
| Vera Walters               | Birding                   |
| Jeff Sorenson              | Paddling                  |
| Kim Jackson                | Paddling                  |
| Mark Hullinger             | Fishing/Boating, Survival |
| Tom Joiner                 | Fishing/Boating           |
| Kim Gray                   | Photography               |
| Stan and Dannette Schepers | Predator Calling          |
| Kathy Greene               | Hiking, Archery           |
| Donna Walkuski             | Fly Fishing Team Leader   |
| Connie Sullivan            | Fly Fishing               |
| Mary Plumb                 | Fly Fishing               |
| Toni Wallace               | Fly Fishing               |
| Marian Tallan              | Fly Fishing               |
| Tice Supplee               | Javelina Hunting          |
| Nikki Julien               | Gardening for Wildlife    |



### What is Mesquite Flour?

Nutrient Packed, Healthy, and Locally Sourced!

Mesquite flour, made by grinding ripened pods from the mesquite tree, can be used either as a flour or a flavoring. It is 100% natural, low in carbs and fat, high in protein and dietary fiber, and naturally sweet. You can sprinkle, shake, or mix mesquite flour into all of your everyday foods to create healthier and tastier dishes with very little effort.

When used in baking, mesquite is often mixed in with other flours using about 30% mesquite to 70% grain or rice flour. Mesquite flour contains no gluten. Try it in pancakes, muffins, cakes, cornbread, or cookies. It can be added to scrambled eggs, biscuits, breads, soups, and even ice cream. As a flavoring, sprinkle generously then grill, fry, or broil almost anything for a great mesquite flavor. Mesquite flour is great for flavoring steaks, chicken, pork, or fish. Sprinkle on vegetables for grilling; add to your breading for meat and fish. Add 1 tbsp mesquite flour to your morning smoothie. Experiment with mesquite flour for a healthy, tasty locally-grown food!



*Harvest ripe mesquite pods before the summer rains. To ensure cleanliness, pods should be harvested from the tree, not the ground. Pods should be kept dry until ready for grinding.*

*Have your pods ground into flour at a community hammer-mill grinding event. For more information, including times and locations of grindings visit: <http://www.desertharvesters.org>*



### Ingredients

- 1½ c flour
- ½ c mesquite flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1 c sugar
- ¼ c molasses
- 1 tbsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ¾ c butter or shortening
- 1 egg
- granulated sugar

### Directions

Preheat oven to 375. Beat shortening and sugar until creamed. Beat in egg and molasses. Stir dry ingredients together and blend into the wet mixture. Form a teaspoon of dough into a small ball by rolling lightly between the palms of hand. Roll ball in loose granulated sugar. Place about 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Press down with a fork in a cross-hatch pattern like you would with peanut butter cookies. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until tops are slightly rounded and crackly.

*Above photos courtesy of: Nikki Julien*



*Photo courtesy of: Trica Oshant Hawkins*



*Photo courtesy of: Leslie Seaton*

# Ranger Rick Magazine



Photo: Maryland Elementary's Garden Club loves their Ranger Rick Magazine!

Take kids closer to nature with amazing photographs, real adventures, rain or shine activities, and intriguing information about animals and natural wonders. Ranger Rick magazine is a proud winner of 2018 Parents' Choice Gold Medal. Subscriptions are for one year (10 issues) and the first issues arrives in 4-6 weeks.

**Order through the Arizona Wildlife Federation and AWF receives 50% of the proceeds, making your young subscriber a local conservationist!**

Visit <https://azwildlife.org/Ranger-Rick-Magazine> to order or call us at 480-702-1365

**RANGER RICK** ages 7-12  
50+ Years of Inspiring Children to Love Wildlife

**RANGER RICK JR.** ages 4-7  
Animal Fun for Young Children

**RANGER RICK Cub** ages 0-4  
A First Look at Animals

AWF's Family Membership includes a second magazine subscription—choose either a second subscription of this print magazine or a subscription to Ranger Rick.

Thanks to the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), you can now sign up now for an on-line subscription to Ranger Rick to enjoy for free until the end of June. NWF has made their digital versions of Ranger Rick available free to the public to help families connect with nature. This includes Ranger Rick Jr. and Cub, as well as Zoobooks, Zoodinos, Zootles, and Zoobies. For more information and to register, visit <https://rangerrick.org/freedigital/>



## Garden For Wildlife

The Arizona Wildlife Federation continues to team with National Wildlife Federation to certify your garden as "Wildlife Habitat." With a small amount of planning and effort, you can create a wildlife habitat in your yard, on your balcony, at your school, or along roadsides! With NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat program, folks are encouraged to plant native shrubs, flowers, and trees that produce berries, seeds, and sap, to create an eco-friendly environment for birds and wildlife.

For more information, visit us online at: <https://azwildlife.org/Garden-for-Wildlife>

# 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  |       |     | <b>Select Membership Level</b>  |   |
| 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 - 1 year<br>(65+ or Disabled Veteran) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express |       |     |   |   |
| Card Number   |       |     | <b>Mail To:</b>   |   |
| Expiration Date   | CVV   |     | <b>Arizona Wildlife Federation</b><br><b>PO Box 1182, Mesa, Arizona, 85211-1182</b> |   |
| Signature   |       |     | <b>AWF@azwildlife.org, 480-702-1365</b>   |   |

## AWF Life Members

- |                                      |                                   |                                   |                                      |                                   |
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**Certify your wildlife habitat at [www.nwf.org/certify](http://www.nwf.org/certify)**

Your involvement supports the work of both the Arizona Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation to help reduce habitat loss for bees, butterflies, birds, amphibians, and other wildlife.