

Arizona Wildlife News



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What is AWF?

Our Mission Statement

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

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

Our Newsletter

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

The Arizona Wildlife Federation welcomes stories, art, and photographic contributions! We will consider, but assume no responsibility for unsolicited proposals, manuscripts, art, photographs, and transparencies. Contact the AWF office at (480) 702-1365 for details.

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JOIN THE CONVERSATION



A Message from the Executive Director

By Scott Garlid, AWF Executive Director



Last week, I did something I hadn't done in over a year. No, it wasn't a post Covid celebration of going out to the movies, dinner, or going to a sports bar to watch the Suns. I went for a hike in the rain... and it was nothing short of incredible! This is the time of year those of us who live in the valley really dread. It's the time of year when no matter how early you get up and get outside it's hot, and the only real relief is to get out of town. However, for a few glorious days last week we had rain, cooler temps, and more rain. It was unbelievably refreshing for me, and given our record drought, it was desperately needed. I had gone on the same hike a few weeks ago and even the desert looked tired of being so hot and so dry. I've hiked, biked, and ran in South Mountain Park for 35 years and my own unscientific observation of the conditions had me worried about this drought. I'm still worried, but a little rain in the desert goes a long way, and by the time I hiked last week, there was new growth everywhere. The saguaros and ocotillos were either happy enough or confused enough to think it must be time to bloom and a few were making pretty good progress toward that end. Our drought is far from over, but here's to a refreshing break, and I hope this issue of AWN refreshes you as well.

Our Regional Directors bring you news from all corners of Arizona starting on page 4, including updates on the Mexican Grey Wolf reintroduction in the White Mountains, impacts of drought on junipers in northern and central Arizona, a perspective on the Telegraph and Mescal fires from a front row seat in Globe, updates on Rosemont and Oak Flat mines, and much more. Also, when you read about Aravaipa Canyon and the Verde River recognize that it's your support that led to passage of the Land and Water

Conservation Fund, which in turn is enabling these incredible conservation and access success stories. Thank you!

A cornerstone of the AWF's mission, and a guiding principle of our work, continues to be the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. On page 18, Lew Carpenter, our National Wildlife Federation Director of Conservation Partnerships, revisits the North American Model and shares his thoughts on a new book on the topic that spans the history, challenges, and future of wildlife and conservation. This is a must read for hunters and for all who seek to engage, protect, and support wildlife and habitat.

Another cornerstone of AWF's work is our Becoming and Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program. On page 13, take a look back at a woman whose life in many ways epitomized what we try to teach at BOW, and whose family has chosen to leave a lasting impact on the program. Then on page 16, look forward to a new chapter in BOW, called Bridges to BOW, where we are working to expand BOW's impact and introduce BOW skills to underrepresented women.

On page 22, read about another new AWF program, Early Childhood Outdoors (ECHO), which strives to replace screen time with nature play time for young children, and how AWF has been selected to expand this exciting program to childcare centers in Arizona.

Finally, it's time to brag just a bit. Congratulations to AWF Board President, Brad Powell, who was presented with the Charlie Shaw Conservation Partnership Award at this year's National Wildlife Federation Annual meeting. The Charlie Shaw award is NWF's most prestigious individual recognition, and it couldn't go to a more deserving recipient. And in that same camp of deserving recipients, our BOW program was selected to be inducted into the Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame. Congratulations and a sincere thank-you to the BOW committee, BOW leaders, and all the volunteer instructors!

So even if our weather is back to hot and dry by the time you read this, I hope this issue of Arizona Wildlife News refreshes you like a desert summer's rain!

Yours in conservation,

Scott Garlid, Executive Director, Arizona Wildlife Federation

AWF Regional Roundup

Arizona Wildlife Federation divides the state into regions in the same manner as the Arizona Game and Fish Department. This map depicts each of those regions and the members of our Board of Directors who serve as directors for each area. Our Regional Directors are busy!



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



Amanda Moors
Region 6 Director

Region 1 Director's Report

By Bob Vahle, Regional Director

Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Program

The Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Team (IFT) reported that there was a minimum of 186 Mexican wolves in the wild (72 in AZ and 114 in NM) at the end of 2020. This was a 14% increase in the population from the 2019 end-of-year census. The 2019 census documented 163 wolves, which was an increase of 24% from 2018 numbers. Overall, the population has nearly doubled in size over the last five years. Annual surveys are conducted in the winter, at the end of each year, which allows for comparable year-to-year trends at a time of year when the Mexican wolf population is most stable.

A record 22 captive-born Mexican wolf pups were placed in wild dens to be raised in the wild by their surrogate parents after another successful cross-foster season. For six years, wild Mexican wolves have been raising captive-born pups as their own, helping to boost the genetic diversity of this endangered subspecies, and moving the wild population towards recovery. The IFT reported that during April and May 2021, nine pups were fostered into three different packs in eastern Arizona and 13 were fostered into five packs in western New Mexico.

During 2019 and early 2020, the number of confirmed depredation incidents increased prompting the Board of the Eastern Arizona Counties Organization (EACO) to donate



Yearly Mexican gray wolf counts include taking vital statistics on wolf health. Photo by George Andrejko, AZGFD

\$35,000 to the AGFD to fund the Range Riders Program. The Range Riders program has helped reduce wolf depredation on livestock by 39%.

Proposed Heber Wild Horse Territory Management Plan

After providing the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests formal comments on the March 2021 Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Heber Wild Horse Territory (HWHT) Management Plan, the AWF still awaits subsequent actions to be completed by the ASNF. A draft decision notice and finding of no significant impacts (FONSI) will be prepared and circulated. If any changes to the draft EA are warranted, a final version will be prepared and provided with the draft decision notice. The ASNF is anticipating having this ready in the late fall of 2021

Proposed ASNF Travel Management Plan

The impacts of Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) continue to significantly escalate on the ASNF with no completion and implementation of the proposed Travel Management Plan that was first provided to the public for comment ending on October 29, 2019. The AWF has provided formal comments to the ASNF but still awaits action by the ASNF. In the meantime, the sale and use of OHVs in Arizona and on the ASNF has exploded and continues to increase each year.

National Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting

Each year the Arizona Wildlife Federation (AWF), as a state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), participates in the NWF Annual Meeting. This year, the meeting was held virtually and was attended by NWF affiliate representatives from all 50 states including U.S. Territories. Bob Vahle, Region 1 Director, who serves as our NWF Representative, and AWF President, Brad Powell, AWF's NWF Alternate Representative, participated in the official business actions conducted during the meeting. Additional AWF Board and Staff attended the educational sessions.

At this year's NWF Annual meeting, six resolutions were submitted and adopted by the NWF Staff and NWF state affiliates. The resolutions submitted to NWF in 2021 were: 1) Governance of 2050 U.S. Net-Zero Carbon Action



AWF Board President, Brad Powell, recieved the prestigious Charlie Shaw Conservation Partnership Award from the National Wildlife Federation.

Plans; 2) Non Climate Impacts of Transitioning to a Net-Zero Carbon Economy; 3) Conserving Nature to Protect Wildlife and Stabilize the Climate; 4) Support for a Civilian Climate Corp; 5) Strengthening Plant Conservation in State and Federal Conservation Programs; and 6) Valuing and Protecting Horseshoe Crabs. The content and recommendations identified in each of these resolutions can be found on NWF's website at <https://affiliates.nwf.org/policy-resolutions>.

Finally -- and an outstanding highlight of the 2021 NWF annual meeting -- the NWF honored Brad Powell, AWF Board President, with its most prestigious "Charlie Shaw Conservation Partnership Award." The award honored Powell's outstanding success in expanding AWF's capacity and capability to positively influence the conservation of wildlife and other key natural resources in Arizona and other regions in the U.S., along with his leadership in redesigning how NWF state affiliates can collaborate to achieve both their state and NWF's shared conservation goals.

Region 3 Director's Report

By Loyd Barnett, Regional Director

Drought

Like a broken record, we continue to report that we are suffering from a multi-decade drought. The majority of the region, as is the majority of the state, is currently classified as in Exceptional Drought, the highest class within the drought monitor. This category is described as having large fires year-round, poor vegetation green-up, dying native vegetation, and dry lakes, ponds, and streams. This description is proving to be prophetically accurate.



A significant die-off of juniper trees is occurring across much of central and northern Arizona. On the Prescott and Kaibab National Forests approximately 50,000 to 100,000 acres of junipers have been affected in the area between Paulden and Ash Fork along Highway 89 and I-40. Mortality has also been noted north of Williams along Highway 64. The majority of affected trees are shaggy bark juniper species, including Utah juniper and one-seed juniper. Mortality is varied, with most areas showing die-off of 5-30% of trees, with some larger pockets of dead junipers ranging from 1 to 15 acres. In addition, Forest Service officials have been noting mortality of individual and small patches of alligator juniper in the higher elevation upland areas surrounding the City of Prescott.

Current assessments by US Forest Service's Forest Health

Protection office in Flagstaff suggest that the majority of this mortality is caused by the exceptional drought that this part of Arizona is experiencing. While there have been some scattered observations of insects on dead trees, Forest Health Protection believes that the initial cause of death is directly tied to water stress. Trees impacted by drought show a change in color of their needle-like scales, which typically starts at the branch tips and spreads down the tree, fading from green to a bright yellow.



Juniper tree die off due to exceptional drought conditions in the Prescott and Kaibab National Forests.

Burros

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is continuing the burro removal project that began last fall. As previously reported, they are reducing the population of wild burros in the Black Mountain Herd Management Area (BMHMA) in order to bring the population down from the estimated population of 2200 to the appropriate management level (AML) of 478. They will then maintain it at that level. The BMHMA extends from the Lake Mead National Recreation Area south to I-40. The Black Mountains contain the largest contiguous area of desert bighorn sheep habitat.

Last fall the BLM removed the planned first 500 burros, with BLM employees utilizing water and bait traps. Gath-

Region 3 Director's Report Cont'd.

ered burros were transferred to the Arizona Department of Corrections facility at Florence, the Wild Horse and Burro Training and Off-Range Corral. Periodic adoptions occur at this facility. Currently the BLM is working on capturing the next 500 burros and have removed 128 burros as of June 13. Following the removal of the first 1,000 animals, the plan is to do a re-inventory and then continuing removal until the AML is achieved. To maintain this level, a combination of maintenance gathers and fertility controls (approved vaccines) will be employed.

Verde River

Friends of the Verde River, which has recently become an AWF affiliate, continues its multifaceted efforts with its three major programs of Sustaining Flows, Restoring Habitat, and Promoting Community. With their multi-talented staff, and a diverse and numerous group of volunteers and cooperators, they continued through the pandemic. The field crews were able to complete some on-the-ground work of monitoring and retreatment of invasive species, plus treatment of a new species (Himalayan blackberry) in the Fossil Springs area. This spring's Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival was held, in a hybrid mode – with a few small in-person field trips, and a number of virtual presentations.

A major effort continues to be maintaining and increasing the involvement of residents and businesses. They have recently launched a new program, River Friendly Living, which aims to promote a culture of voluntary river conservation. As a certification program, Friends will use River Friendly Living to recognize homes, businesses, farms, ranches, real estate developments, congregations, communities, and others that do their part to protect the Verde River for future generations.

In the last report we described the use of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to fund the acquisition of the 84 acre Rio Verde Ranch, containing 2/3 mile of the Verde River near its headwaters. Recently the LWCF was used to acquire a 58 acre parcel along the Verde River within the Camp Verde town limits and protect it as a part of the Coconino National Forest. The property lies at the confluence of the Verde and Beaver Creek, one of its major tributaries. It is included in an Audubon recently designated important bird area. It is also important to Camp Verde. According to Economic Development Director, Steve Ayers, "This is a significant step in making the town's River Recreation Master Plan a reality."



The Verde and Salt River system supports the largest number of breeding bald eagle pairs in Arizona. Photo courtesy of the Friends of the Verde River.

Region 4 Director's Report

By Pat Headington, Regional Director

Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club (YVRGC)/Southwest Wildlife Foundation (SWF)

The Water for Wildlife Golf Tournament was held May 22nd with 20 teams participating in the event at the Mesa Del Sol Golf Course. With COVID-19 restrictions lifting a month earlier in Arizona, people were eager to hit the course for a beautiful day of golf. The event was a success with the proceeds supporting our water hauling operations.

Draft Hunt Plans

Comments were submitted for the proposed hunt/fish plan amendments for Havasu National Wildlife Refuge and Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge. The comments supported the expansion of hunting opportunities on both refuges and urged continuation of the cooperative work with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and further alignment of their regulations.

Region 4 Director's Report Cont'd.



Proceeds from the Water for Wildlife Golf Tournament support water hauling efforts in Southern Arizona. Photo courtesy of the Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club

Camino Del Diablo/Barry M. Goldwater Range

I participated in a day trip traveling the Camino Del Diablo on June 15th with staff from Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Marine Corp Air Station Yuma, Cabeza Prieta National History Association, Tohono O'odham Nation, and Friends of the Sonoran Desert. The trip began on Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR) ending just south of Ajo, Arizona. The purpose of the trip was to observe road improvements made as part of the border wall construction and review possible mitigation efforts to return them to a more natural state. Several existing roads have been widened to allow 2-way traffic for commercial vehicle moving materials to the border, others have been created to provide access to areas for material delivery and work-camps.

A draft plan is being prepared to outline mitigation efforts to restore wash flows, and rehabilitate roads and barricade areas to allow the desert to reclaim these areas. Currently there are no funds set aside for these mitigation efforts – those were lost with the closing of the border wall contracts. Additionally, other lands are being considered to augment critical habitat disturbed by the border wall construction. Habitat under consideration is sandwiched between the northern BMGR boundary and residential development in the City of Yuma and Yuma Foothills.

Tom Boggess/Tinaja Altas Sheep Tank

Members of the Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club, Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Marine Corp Air Station Yuma, and Arizona Game and Fish Department constructed a tank in the Tinaja Altas range on March 27th primarily for bighorn sheep. The tank was dedicated to past President Tom Boggess for his work with the Sheep Society along with his volunteer veterinary efforts with the AGFD. In all, some 80+ people were on site to help with the construction of the tank which has the capacity to store over 16,000 gallons of water.

Hunter Education

Hunter education courses have returned with Streamlined Field Days (SLD). The SLDs will continue across the state until the 2000 student back-log has been through the course. Once the back-log is complete, we will return to in-person classes for youth 10-14. A separate Conservation Course is nearing completion for students seeking a bonus point.

AZGFD Region 4

Water hauling remains a critical task into the foreseeable future for the region. With over 300,000 gallons delivered to date, the region has made some difficult decisions on where to focus its resources, leaving some tanks without water. Volunteers continue working with staff to coordinate water delivery, and additional tank trailers are headed to the region to reinforce current operations.

A water hole project has been started near Texas Hill which will target deer and other wildlife in the area. Texas Hill 38 is being worked intermittently by staff and volunteers in the area.



Wildlife waterer dedicated to Tom Boggess. Photo courtesy of the Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club

Region 5 Director's Report

By Duane Aubuchon, Regional Director

Aravaipa Canyon Access

On March 4th, the Bureau of Land Management's Safford Field Office released an environmental analysis (EA) proposing to acquire 2,800 acres of private lands northeast of the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness from a willing seller. The 30-day public comment period for the proposed acquisition ended April 2nd. The proposed acquisition, in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, would utilize LWCF Sportsmen/Recreation Access assets to improve public access and wildlife corridors in this remote area of southeastern Arizona. It would also allow public access to 30,000 acres of currently inaccessible BLM land and 9,000 acres of other US Forest Service and Arizona State Trust land. The areas include lands in the Galiuro and Santa Teresa Mountains that provide a linkage between the two landscapes. The Arizona Wildlife Federation had drafted letters of support for this proposed acquisition and coordinated with the Trust for Public Land on the project.

Pinnacle Fire

With the exceptional drought engulfing the state, this fire season is well underway and there have been several starts in southeastern Arizona. As of this report, the Pinnacle Fire in the Santa Teresa Mountains has been the largest in Region 5 at approximately 32,000 acres. The fire is also significant because of the threat posed to the town of Klondyke, and it encompasses much of the area mentioned in the Aravaipa Canyon Access EA.



Salt Cedar (*Tamarisk*) is an invasive plant featured on the vegetative management plan.

Safford Field Office Vegetation Management Plan

In December, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a public review draft of their Vegetation Management EA for the Safford Field Office. After reviewing the EA, Arizona Wildlife Federation staff sent a letter of support for the project to the BLM. Now, the BLM has released the associated proposed Wilderness and Ecosystem Plan Amendments to supplement the EA. The amendments specifically add in the options of employing chemical, mechanical, and prescribed fire treatments with the rationale

and support for their use. The Amendments are available to the public for a 45-day comment period that ends on July 18th.

Rosemont Mine

Although there has not been a decision from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals regarding the Rosemont Mine case, there has been some internal disagreements aired by responsible federal agencies. In its latest Rosemont decision, the Army Corps of Engineers concluded that the mine no longer requires a Clean Water Act permit because most washes on the site are ephemeral. Activities in these washes are no longer regulated by the Clean Water Act due to changes in federal regulations made by the Trump administration, which removed them from federal authority. The Corps' recent decision noted three washes on site that run intermittently or perennially, which can be regulated, though the Corps stated they

Region 5 Director's Report Cont'd.



Mexican garter snake. Photo by Timothy Allen Cota

ern Mexican gartersnake under the Endangered Species Act. The Service first proposed designation of 421,423 acres of critical habitat back in 2013. They reduced that figure to 27,784 acres (a 93% decrease) when they re-issued the proposal early last year, after a rule change by the previous administration that changed the criteria used to define critical habitat as only areas occupied at the time of species listing. This begs the question of how can the Service ever de-list a species if only the habitat they occupy when already endangered is protected? In the final rule, even less land is designated as critical habitat, approximately 20,326 acres in La Paz, Mohave, Yavapai, Gila, Cochise, Santa Cruz, and Pima Counties, Arizona, and Grant County, New Mexico. The decrease of 6,769 additional acres is based on landowner/ manager requests due to their existing management plans.

Region 6 Director's Report

By Amanda Moors, Regional Director

don't merit protection because their flows don't reach a navigable stream, like the Santa Cruz River. However, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) contends the Corps violated federal policy requiring detailed consultation with them and had issued memos stating the perennial streams still require regulation. This may be significant as the mine owner, Hudbay, would not be obligated any longer to provide mitigation or compensation for the losses of jurisdictional streams.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Critical Habitat for Northern Mexican Garter-snake

Effective May 28, 2021, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) finalized the designation of critical habitat for the north-

Wildfires

Unfortunately, this summer has seen many dramatic wildfires in Arizona. Where I live in Globe, we sadly had a front row seat to the devastating Mescal and Telegraph fires. The fire started in a very remote area in the Mescal Mountains near Needle's Eye Wilderness. The cause is still under investigation.

The Mescal fire grew very quickly over the next 10 days and eventually reached 72,250 acres. A few days after the Mescal fire started, the Telegraph fire began burning on June 4 south of Superior. That fire grew dramatically and eventually made its



Telegraph fire as viewed from my neighborhood in Globe on June 7th just 3 days after it started near Superior about 18 miles away. Photo courtesy of Amanda Moore.

way to Globe and merged with the Mescal fire. The Telegraph fire caused evacuations in Superior, Globe, Miami, El Capitan and Top of the World. Some people lost their homes and everything they owned in that fire. However, fire fighters used massive amounts of manpower and air power to protect homes and other property throughout the fires path.

Due to our extended drought and high temperatures, the Telegraph fire burned extremely hot and left many areas completely devoid of vegetation (see photo). The Telegraph fire ultimately burned 180,725 acres and recovery efforts have begun. The Burned Area Recovery team has mapped out the soil burn severity (see photo) and will be evaluating the best way to recover the vegetation and manage the flooding that will result if we get significant monsoon rains. The good news is that although the fire burned hot and completely burned much of the vegetation, the soil did not get so hot as to be scorched. If the soil burns at moderate or high intensity, then it can become hydrophobic, meaning when it rains it will shed the water off rather than absorb it. That is really bad for recovering vegetation and the soil can remain hydrophobic for years. It remains to be seen how this year's monsoon will impact soil runoff and erosion. If we are lucky, we will receive relatively frequent, low intensity rains that will be absorbed by the soil and promote recovery of vegetation in the burned areas.



Telegraph Fire aftermath on the south side of the Pinal Mountains.
Photo by Amanda Moors.

Proposed Mine at Oak Flat

Many of you are likely aware of the proposed Resolution Copper mine at Oak Flat between Superior and Globe. This mine would be a massive copper mine operated by Rio Tinto and BHP, the two largest mining companies in the world.

The project proposes to use block cave mining to access a large vein of copper located 7,000 feet underground. This would be one of the deepest mines in the world and would be the largest mine in North America. That method of mining would eventually cause a 1,000 foot deep, two-mile wide crater to form in Oak Flat. Several members of the San Carlos Apache Tribe have been in strong opposition to the mine due to destruction of ground that is sacred to them.

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed Public Land Order 1229 declaring Oak Flat off limits for mining due to cultural and natural value. The Department of the Interior, under President Nixon, renewed the mining ban at Oak Flat, but opened a loophole in the law: the land cannot be mined under federal ownership, but it can be traded to private holders who would not be subject to land use restrictions. In December 2014, Congress passed a last-minute defense spending bill to avoid government shutdown that included federal land exchange legislation, which allowed for the exchange of 2,422 acres of public land above the copper deposit for 5,459 acres of Arizona land owned by Resolution Copper.

(Refer to the Spring 2021 edition of Arizona Wildlife News for more details about the land exchange.)

Currently there is a bill in both the House and Senate called the Save Oak Flat bill (HR 1884 and S.915). That bill would reverse the provision that was included in the military spending bill to authorize the land exchange. If the land around Oak Flat is not transferred into private holdings, then it is protected from mining by the law put in place during the Eisenhower administration and by provisions in the Senate bill. On June 9, 2021, The National Wildlife Federation sent a letter to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in support of the Save Oak Flat bill. The AWF has not yet sent a letter of support but is still evaluating the details of the proposed mine to determine if there are enough mitigation measures in place.

There are many issues surrounding this mine, both environmental and cultural. The AWF has focused our efforts

Region 6 Director's Report Cont'd.

on evaluating the environmental impacts. We have strong concerns about the amount of groundwater that will be needed for this mine to operate and the impact that will have on springs, streams and riparian habitat, that is so crucial for wild-life.

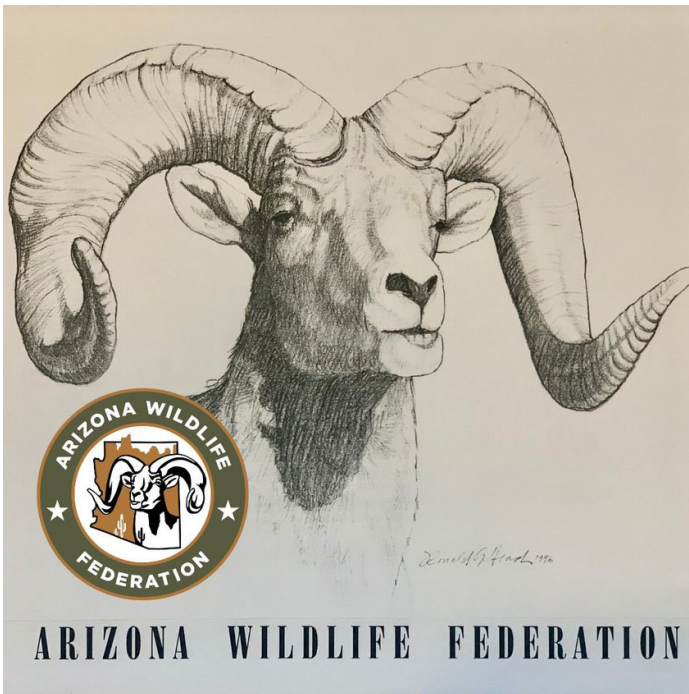
The Arizona Wildlife Federation is not an anti-mining organization. When evaluating a project like this one, we try to determine if the mitigation efforts are enough to offset the anticipating impacts from the mine. In this case, it appears that the proposed mitigation is not sufficient enough. We will continue to analyze the information in the FEIS.

AWF members who feel strongly one way or the other about this mine may want to contact their Federal representatives to share your view on this proposed mine. For those who would like to read the Final Environmental Impact Statement to learn more about the project options and environmental considerations, you can find that information at <https://www.resolutionmineeis.us/documents/final-eis>

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW)

Exciting news! The Becoming an Outdoorswoman program will be inducted into the Arizona Outdoor Hall of Fame at the Wildlife for Tomorrow Foundation's annual banquet on Aug. 21 in Litchfield Park, Arizona. We are so thankful to our dedicated volunteer instructors who truly make this program so special! Many thanks also to our BOW coordinators Linda Dightmon and Kathy Greene for their endless dedication to the program.

We will be hosting our regular 3-day BOW workshop in Prescott Sept. 10-12, 2021. Please visit the BOW page on the AWF website for more information about these events (www.azwildlife.org/BOW).



The Arizona Wildlife Federation would like to thank Ron Head for the inspiration and talent behind our new logo. Ron's fantastic drawing of a beautiful desert bighorn ram was uncovered deep within the AWF archives (i.e. storage unit). Desert bighorn sheep are an iconic species of Arizona, a conservation success story, and emblematic of the value of the Arizona Wildlife Federation's mission. Ron's exceptional art can be viewed here: <http://ronaldhead.com/>

The Story of Thelma: An Arizona Outdoor Woman

By T.J. McMichael III

Summer 2021



Conserving Wildlife and Habitat

Thelma McMichael never ‘became’ an outdoor woman; she was born one. Born in Colorado, she was brought to Kingman in 1909 at age two. The adobe house in which she grew up still stands about three miles west of Kingman. Their remote family homestead was bounded on the north by The Old Trails Highway, now Historic Route 66, and on the south by the Santa Fe Railroad. With her father and three older brothers as guides, she and her sister, Marguerite, roamed the desert hills that surrounded “The Ranch” from an early age.

T.J. McMichael holds a BS and MS in Wildlife Management and worked for AZGFD from 1965-1972 in the Research Department at 3Bar Ranch, Roosevelt Lake, and elsewhere around the state. He is credited as being the first person to capture a deer from a helicopter. Of his work helping wildlife species in the state he says, “it was a ball. We had a great time!”

“The Ranch” had one of the best wells around and the herds of sheep that wintered in Sacramento Valley would be brought in to water. When the sheep would drink too much, they were prone to lie down and the herders would have to move on without them. Thelma and Marguerite would be paid 25 cents a head if they could find the strays and return them to the herd. One night a herd that had not been watered yet, found their own way into the corral. In the morning, the girls saw the corral full of sheep with no herders in sight. They immediately began counting up the quarters. To their disappointment, the herders were not far behind and their fortunes evaporated.

Thelma was always interested in what was taking place outdoors. At this time, Arm and Hammer Baking Soda came with a “useful bird” card in each box. Inspired by the Audubon Society, each card carried the message that birds were useful and should be protected not persecuted. She collected these cards and stored them in an Ohio Blue

www.azwildlife.org

The Story of Thelma, Cont'd.

Tip Match box. Whenever she saw a bird that she did not recognize, she would flip through the match box until she found the new bird. This was her bird book. She didn't own a bird book until late in life but she had a name for every bird, flower and mammal that she saw.

A friend once asked her, "What do you think of the environmental movement?" "The what?" she answered. She didn't have any idea what the environmental movement was but she knew how much rain had fallen, what phase the moon was at, and everything else about the natural world around her.

Thelma's eventual husband, T.J. McMichael, was born and raised in western Pennsylvania. In the early 1920s he traveled to Kingman, riding the rails as a hobo. He found work at the local ranches and mines and remained there about two years. During this time he met the Lewis family and their older daughter, Thelma, caught his eye. After a brief trip back to Pennsylvania, he returned to Kingman in 1925. This time he rode in his own Model T Ford. After a year-long courtship, they eloped to California. She became his Diana of the hunt. Three gifts that he gave her illustrate their love of the outdoors, a Remington Boy Scout knife, a Colt .22 Woodsman automatic and a Remington .22 slide action rifle. These remain treasured family heirlooms.

T.J. came from a family of bricklayers and stone masons. He carried a union card in his wallet and a mason's trowel in his hip pocket. With California's booming building trade, he had no trouble finding work. In the summer of 1928, the McNeil Construction Company that he was working for took over construction of the Westward Ho Hotel in Phoenix. Thelma and T.J. McMichael followed the work back to Arizona.

T.J. helped finish the hotel and then worked on schools and other projects in several towns around Arizona. While he was working on the Clarkdale Grammar School, the crew camped at Peck Lake on the other side of the Verde River. Thelma took the task of cooking for the crew. She would collect money from the "brickies" and walk to town to buy the food for the day. Then she would walk back to camp and prepare the meal. Her only stipulation was that they had to have their own plates, cups and utensils. One fellow figured that he could bluff her into using hers, but he wound up walking to the store and buying his own before she would let him eat.

Whenever work was slack or they had time off, T.J. and Thelma would load up their Ford sedan and head for the mountain streams and lakes. Their photo album shows them at Hannagan Meadows, Tonto Ruins, Roosevelt Lake, and numerous other places across Arizona.

About 1931, Thelma and T.J. settled down in Kingman. They were able to buy a parcel of land for back taxes. They acquired a used dump truck and cement mixer. They would drive out to a sand wash, shovel in a load of gravel and drive back to town. Yes, Thelma could jam gears with the best of them. Then they would mix up the concrete and pour it into forms to make concrete blocks. Because it was a pay-as-you-go endeavor, it took them several years to make enough concrete blocks to build them a house. That structure still stands.

They continued to manufacture concrete block and do contract work until WWII broke out. With these blocks he also built homes, offices and other businesses. T.J. had a signature block fence that he built with his own block. Several are still standing around Kingman. At least two of these are in front of homes that are on the National Register of Historic Places. Thelma was always his helpmate. She fed and raised four children, as well as chickens, rabbits and ducks; milked a cow and prepared any fish or fowl that T.J. brought home from his excursions.

With T.J.'s death in 1955, Thelma gave up most of her outdoor woman role. However, she always was ready to load up her International Travelall and head for the hills. During those years she fed two generations of Kingman stu-



Thelma's bird book, a match box filled with over 160 Arm & Hammer bird cards. Photo courtesy of the McMichael Family.

The Story of Thelma, Cont'd.

dents who knew her as Mrs. McMichael, “the cafeteria lady.” She started as the cook’s helper in the school cafeteria and she worked her way up to managing it.

Thelma continued to observe the wild world around her. She maintained a vegetable and flower garden. She grew biennial evening primrose for the hummers and butterflies. She would not cut the 8 foot stalks back until her Gold-finches and other gleaners had consumed the year’s seed crop. Once she noticed where deer were jumping up over the wall into her garden. It was winter and the nights were frosty, but she went out and sat in her Travelall and waited until all five of the does had come in to feed on her rose bushes.

In 1997, she lost a 17-year battle with numerous forms of cancer and was laid to rest beside T.J. in Kingman. Once when we visited their plot, we found the tracks of deer that had crossed the fence and wandered over the graves. With such visitors, I knew that T.J. and Thelma were completely and comfortably at rest.

Thank you to the McMichael family...

“The Story of Thelma,” though written down by T.J. McMichael III, is the remembrance of the McMichael family. We sincerely thank the McMichael family for their support of the BOW program through the years both financially and by promoting the program in the state. The McMichael Family honors “mom and dad” (Thelma and T.J.) with their recent donation to BOW. It was Thelma and T.J.’s love of the outdoors that made their children the staunch supporters of the outdoors that they are today.

Financial contributions in the form of donations, sponsorships, BOW-tique and silent auction purchases, along with registrations expand our outdoor educational programs so we can connect more people to the beautiful lands we are working so hard to conserve for future generations.

Donate today at: www.azwildlife.org/donate

... and to all of our supporters of the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program!



Thelma sitting inside Tonto Ruin. Photo courtesy of the McMichael Family.

Bridges to BOW: A Partnership Project of AWF and Public Allies of Arizona

By Juan Rivera, Public Allies Arizona



AWF staff and our Public Allies partners team up to bring the benefits of the BOW program to underserved audiences. Left to right: Allison Castro Bazarro, Kelly Liska, Nikki Julien, Trica Oshant Hawkins, and Juan Rivera.

Public Allies of Arizona has recently partnered with The Arizona Wildlife Federation to develop an exciting new program. Public Allies is a social justice organization, committed to creating a just and equitable society and the diverse leadership to sustain it. Public Allies is a program under Arizona State University's Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation. The goal of Public Allies is to help create future leaders with an emphasis on inclusion and community asset building. Public Allies

cohorts must identify and work with a local non-profit on a project known as a 'Team Service Project' to help build community assets with that non-profit. Our team consists of myself (Juan Rivera), Kelly Liska, Jacqueline SantaMaria, Deandra Binder, and Allison Castro. We have been lucky enough to get to work with the Arizona Wildlife Federation. After much discussion, meetings, and an opportunity to attend a recent BOW workshop, we have come up with a great project to help AWF infuse diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion into their conservation work, specifically through their Becoming an Outdoors-Woman programs.

Our small team (who are just as passionate about the environment as our AWF partners) will help increase community awareness of AWF, their projects, wildlife conservation issues, and opportunities to get involved. Specifically, we will help spread these messages to wider and more diverse audiences. We will be helping with promotion and outreach for AWF primarily through social media, but also we are helping develop an exciting new program related to BOW.

Arizona Wildlife Federation's Become an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program is without a doubt one of AWF's most popular programs and is a fantastic way to introduce the outdoors and all its won-



Allison Castro Bazarro takes up a new skill as she takes aim with an air rifle during the basic gun handling and safety course at BOW. Photo courtesy of Cheryl Reuss.

ders to the women of Arizona! However, there are many younger and diverse women in Arizona that don't even know that the program exists. Conservation is an issue that every generation faces, and the need for younger people to get involved is of the utmost importance. Many young people want to learn more about the outdoors and help with conservation issues, but just don't know how. The BOW Program is a fantastic learning opportunity, but in today's society, for young women living in the city, trying to earn their degree while also paying bills, BOW has been out of reach. Not only have they not heard about BOW, but many young women cannot afford the registration fee, or for lack of experience, are afraid to invest what funds they do have into getting outdoors and learning. For these reasons, we created the Bridges to BOW program.

Through Bridges to BOW, we aim to help young, diverse, and underserved women learn about, register for, and attend a BOW Program. Our Public Allies team will help with recruitment and program development. As a young, diverse group ourselves, we know where to find and how to reach these young women. We'll also assist the AWF team prepare the selected individuals for BOW. AWF will raise the funds to provide full scholarships to the Bridges to BOW applicants, help them prepare for the program, and provide additional support to participants before, during, and after the program.

This is where you, members and supporters of AWF, come in! We need your help to make Bridges to BOW a reality. Your investment in this program will extend way beyond a single BOW event; by helping us expand BOW's reach to a formerly underserved segment of young women who will become (or already are) voters, mothers, and potentially, leaders of our communities, you are helping create new advocates for wildlife, public lands, and conservation. These young women will move into their futures armed with a positive outdoor ethic and a new appreciation of Arizona's outdoor opportunities. Bridges to BOW, with your support, will help get them there.



Kelly Liska earned her bachelors in wildlife biology from ASU. An impromptu plant identification walk at BOW gives her renewed hope in finding a job in her chosen field.

How Can I Help?

Sponsor a Bridges to BOW participant! \$400 would enable a young woman to participate in the Bridges to BOW program and gain outdoor knowledge and skills as well as an understanding about the importance of nature, wildlife, and conservation. \$400 covers registration, transportation, and camping gear.

**Double your contribution!
Donate now and your gift will be matched
dollar for dollar.**

You can also help the Bridges to BOW program by making a donation of outdoor gear (such as new or gently used fishing equipment, tents, backpacks, etc.) to help BOW workshop participants to engage in the outdoors during and following BOW.

There is also the opportunity to sponsor a portion of or an entire Bridges to BOW session (we plan to offer Bridges to BOW for all future BOW workshops). **If you or your company is interested in this level of sponsorship, please contact Trica Oshant Hawkins at trica@azwildlife.org.**

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.

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, Edited by Shane P. Mahoney & Valerius Geist

To begin, it seems best to articulate the focus of this book. The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is “an evolved and shared system of conservation laws, principles, institutions, and policies that has enabled the successes of Canada and the United States in the recovery, management, and protection of wildlife and brought them global recognition,” write Shane P. Mahoney, Valerius Geist, and Paul R. Krausman.

Like many of you, I am very familiar with the seven principles associated with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation (the Model). In fact recently, in this very magazine (AWN) ,we published an overview of the Model* and its seven principles:

1. Maintaining wildlife as a public trust resource, entrusted to the state to manage.
2. Prohibiting deleterious commerce in dead wildlife products.
3. Regulating and defining appropriate wildlife use by law.
4. Ensuring wildlife can only be killed for legitimate purpose.
5. Recognizing and managing wildlife as an international resource.
6. Utilizing and safeguarding science as the appropriate basis for wildlife policy.
7. Protecting the democratic allocation of citizen opportunity to harvest wildlife.



As hunters and conservationists we invoke the Model when advocating for our collective heritage. It is the philosophical foundation of our beloved sport and the significant implementation of how we engage with wildlife and the world around us in a respectful and scientific manner.

This essay is less a book review than an endorsement, a nudge and a hope that you will expand your knowledge of the Model by making this book a well-engaged member of your nightstand or bookshelf.

Many people, and rightly so, believe that the Model came into existence as a fully formed concept. After all, it is often presented as such. But its creation, evolution, and structure came long before it was named, as you will find within the pages of this book.

It may come as a surprise to many that this is the first, and remains the only, book to ever address the Model. Author Shane Mahoney tells us that, “Given this pedigree it was designed first and foremost to be the most complete presentation of not only the Model’s history and structure (principles) but also the urgent context in which it arose (massive over-exploitation), the pre-conditions which gave rise to it (the ecological conditions of the continent as shaped by Native Americans and the influence of European ideals and perspectives) and which help explain its particular personality, and the characteristics of the Model which leave it open to challenge and reflection.”

There is no doubt that the authors of the various chapters seek to inspire an advancement in thought and creation for the next iteration of the Model. The book illustrates more than once the evolution of the Model and how we got to where we are today. And, through this gentle discourse, both strengths and weaknesses that beg collective work are addressed, along and a desperate need to adapt and improve upon what has become the greatest system of sustainable wildlife management on the planet.

“The hope is that the book will encourage debate, incite deeper investigation of the Model’s assumptions, and will force upon its proponents and detractors alike challenging truths that demand reflection and address,” says Mahoney. “While the book is meant to celebrate the Model’s successes and clarify the desperate plight of wildlife in late nineteenth century North America, it also contains an unequivocal recognition of what I perceive as the greatest misfortune in the Model’s origins and constitution...the complete absence of the perspectives and unparalleled natural history and landscape management knowledge of Native American cultures. If the book achieved nothing else, I would see bringing this to broader attention as a success.”

The format of the book is well designed as each chapter is self-contained, with Mahoney bringing it all home in conclusion. You can start with “A Comparison of the North American Model to Other Conservation Approaches” and jump to “The Great Early Champions” with ease. We are taken by many routes and a variety of voices to places of much deeper understanding about wildlife management, history, conservation, and the critical role each of us plays in past and future success.

The historical context is compelling and emerges naturally from the beginning of the book. I simply had no idea of the history of North American wildlife and its complicated path to being managed today. For example, Geist and Mahoney write, “...in the context of wildlife management and nature conservation in North America, it is important to note that the entry of modern humans at the beginning of the Bølling-Allerød Interstadial some 14,000 years ago marked the last time the continent’s biota and landscapes were natural.” Geist and Mahoney’s history lessons “...examine what is natural, and whether North America’s objectives for wildlife reflect realistic interpretations of the continent’s past and hopes for its future.”

Closer to home, James L. Cummins’ accessible essay on critical legislation explains how laws like Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson, and Wallop-Breaux became key conservation funding cornerstones. As well, Cummins highlights other important conservation Acts, like the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (Duck Stamp).



But the history of how we got to be where we are today doesn't stop with the examples above, as the significant past comes up time and time again in additional chapters. "There are many insightful passages that explain lesser known facts, such as how knowledgeable first North American cultures worked to manage landscapes and how they impacted wildlife, how diverse the personalities and intense the debates were amongst early conservation advocates, how complex our institutions are today and how farsighted founding thinkers were in creating international treaties more than a century ago," says Mahoney.

And every hunter should read the chapter on "Hunting and Vested Interests as the Spine of the North American Model," by James R. Heffelfinger and Mahoney, which clearly illustrates the core role of the North American hunter. It further details how the idea of seeking incentives for successful conservation program implementation was intuitively "baked" into the Model by the self-interest of the North American hunter.

As well, in Heffelfinger's discussion of non-game species and their absence from the hunter-incentive paradigm, he rightly makes the case - without naming the effort - for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), which would provide funding relief to state game and fish agencies for all species under their care. As of this writing, RAWA is again set to enter the American legislative process in the U.S. Congress.



provide funding relief to state game and fish agencies for all species under their care. As of this writing, RAWA is again set to enter the American legislative process in the U.S. Congress.

Challenges to the Model

The honesty of the book both celebrates the vast successes of the Model, building a case for its continued relevance, as well as points a finger at its current weaknesses. With seven highly articulated challenges, we also find an "Incomplete Historical Narrative" that fails to recognize important contributors to the Model's success. Brennan, Hewitt and Mahoney write, "To its detriment the traditional narrative also fails to address how prevalent social inequalities between genders, races, and classes during the development of the Model negatively impacted its practical inclusivity."

Acknowledging the weaknesses of the Model, Mahoney makes the case for an enlightened upgrade, one we should all demand - rather than deny in retreat. "Without commitment to fundamental change, we must accept that current trends in conservation will continue and that the North American Model will inevitably weaken as its foundational principles prove outdated to both nature's requirements and society's tolerances and values." He goes on to emphasize that we should all be leaders of the change - heroes and mobilizers of knowledge.

Mahoney explains that, "Ultimately, of course, the hope for this book is that it contributes to the vital debate over wildlife's future, reminds us of the cultural ties and community identities that abide within its nexus of historicity and self-awareness, and forces upon the reader the ultimate question: if not this Model, then what alternative is reasonably and realistically proposed? Wildlife, not the Model, is the crucial reality to be, above all else, defended, safeguarded and preserved."

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with this book. As a hunter and conservationist I'll be reaching for it time and time again as I advocate for its principles, as well as seek resolution to its current challenges. And, to be clear, the book is not just for the North American hunter, it is for all who seek to engage, protect, and support wildlife and habitat.

Mahoney says it best in his final conclusion: "Wild nature cannot speak for itself. We must. The greatest question facing North American society today is whether we will."

* See: "Revisiting the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation" by Trica Oshant Hawkins in Arizona Wildlife News, Volume 62, Issue 3, Fall 2019.

AWF Presented Shane Mahoney

The Arizona Wildlife Federation was honored to present a live virtual discussion and Q&A with world renowned conservationist Shane Mahoney of Conservation Visions. Mr. Mahoney is a leading and prominent voice in conservation on the North American landscape. He spoke on several of the challenges and opportunities we face in conserving wildlife and wild places here in Arizona and across our country. Rather than shy away from controversial subjects and difficult problems, Mr. Mahoney takes them on directly in a thoughtful, educational, and non-confrontational manner in a style all his own.

Mr. Mahoney discussed in depth our relationship to the natural world and those “wild others” we share it with. His Wild Harvest Initiative encourages us to discover harvesting the natural world with hunting, fishing, or edible and medicinal foraging. He also inspires us to harvest what nature offers to our emotional and spiritual needs through appreciating beauty and sharing nature with each other. Our relationship to climate change and the devastating impacts it’s having on our ecosystem was also an important topic. He talked about how misplaced conspiracy can have negative impacts and limits our conservation opportunities. While Mr. Mahoney addressed difficult issues in the conservation arena, he also discussed our successes like the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Perhaps most importantly, Mr. Mahoney put a spotlight on our current legislative conservation opportunities like the 30X30 Initiative, the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act, and opening up the conservation arena to a new and diverse assemblage of voices who have historically been left out of the discussion.



Mr. Mahoney encourages ethical harvesting of nature’s bounty, such this saguaro fruit.

If you missed it, watch the full recording on the Arizona Wildlife Federation YouTube channel. Aim your camera at the QR code below to watch.

Arizona Wildlife Federation presents: Shane Mahoney

The Outdoors Opens Doors for Young Children

By Nikki Julien, AWF Outreach Director



Tree swings are one of the many ways children can enjoy time in nature. Photo by Nikki Julien

Summer is synonymous with outdoor playtime. Perhaps not for the desert areas during June, July and August but we can boast in Arizona that we have places to play outdoors all year around from the high country in the summer to the low deserts in the winter and everywhere in between.

The average child today spends less time outdoors per day than prison inmates.

NWF President and CEO Collin O'Mara wrote, "Over the past few decades, children's relationship with the great outdoors and nature has changed dramatically. Since the 1990s researchers have noticed a shift in how children spend their free time. The days of the free-range childhood, where kids spend hours outside playing in local parks, building forts, fording streams and climbing trees, have been mostly replaced by video games, television watching and organized activities such as sports and clubs. We have traded green time for screen time — and it has had an impact on kids' well-being and development."

With the wealth of public land available and the dire need, and recognition, for the benefits of outdoor time on physical and mental health, the barriers to spending time outside often come down to access. NWF's Early Childhood Health Outdoors (ECHO) program wants to change that statistic. Their mission, "Bringing nature and outdoor play to every child, every day," is best carried out where children are—home and childcare.

ECHO's website states: "We facilitate the creation of nature-based outdoor play settings; provide support and resources for parents, caregivers, and educators to activate these spaces; and advocate for policies to transform outdoor play and

The Outdoors Opens Doors, Cont'd.

learning best practice into common practice. When young children spend time daily in high-quality, well-designed, nature-based outdoor spaces, the benefits are clear: improved physical health and social-emotional development, better cognitive skills, and increased affinity for the outdoors. The earlier in life that children experience these benefits, the better their developmental trajectory.”

That’s a lot to unpack here but the basic meaning is that best practices exist for designing a natural place for children to play outdoors by providing enriching and fun experiences for the children while satisfying the curriculum and safety needs of the learning center. But having an awesome play environment isn’t enough. ECHO recognizes that the adults in children’s lives are the gatekeepers to these play opportunities. By providing teachers and caregivers the skills, confidence, and appreciation for being in the outdoors, these caregivers literally open doors for children’s well-being.

Back to Arizona...

Lucky for Arizona kids, a growing community and concern for outdoor play opportunities is growing. And lucky for AWF, staffer Nikki Julien has been a leader in that movement for over eight years. “I was a nature girl before I was a mom, so it was natural for me to connect my children will lots of outdoor play opportunities. But even they were swooned by the screen.” Without an adventurous advocate for going outside, children will readily seek out technological toys. But once a child is outside in a rich environment, curiosity takes over and play happens naturally. For caregivers who are worried about clean up and prep duties, helping children reach developmental milestones, safety, and child to child interactions, the outdoors adds a level of uncertainty. The ECHO model supports both the place and the people.

Started through the NWF Denver regional office, the ECHO program consists of landscape designers and architects, community partnership managers, and educational and program coordination personnel. The Colorado-based program began to offer professional development, design expertise, and start up grants for childcare facilities to implement changes to their outdoor spaces. With “proof in the pudding,” ECHO is now expanding to select NWF state affiliates that have the champions to shepherd this work, affiliates such as AWF.

The tasks for expanding ECHO into Arizona are multi-pronged: look for places that are ready for an intentional nature play design, build partnerships, and find funding to do this important work. As we go forward, we welcome our community’s involvement as partners, funders, and advocates. Many of our readers are members of AWF for good reason—they support wildlife and public lands. Many of you get outdoors, take your children and grandchildren outdoors, and in so doing, instill a lifetime of ethics for the appreciation of healthy habitats. And we say to you...keep up the good work!

If you would like to support our work with the ECHO program, please contact Nikki Julien, Arizona Wildlife Federation Outreach Director at Nikki@AZWildlife.org and check out the website at www.nwf.org/echo

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Insects are fascinating to many young children. Photo by Nikki Julien

AWF's Volunteer for Wildlife Program Has Positive Impacts – On Wildlife and People!

By Trica Oshant Hawkins

AWF's Volunteer for Wildlife program is continuing to grow and we're having a very positive impact on wildlife, wildlife habitat, ...and our volunteers! Our conservation projects provide a great opportunity to get into the outdoors, meet like-minded people, and help wildlife. Hands-on engagement in conservation projects is something that AWF has done historically, and something that nearly all of our Affiliates do. We are pleased to once again be offering these "boots-on-the-ground" conservation opportunities to our members and supporters.

So far this year, our volunteer corps has grown to over 165 registered volunteers. We have participated in 8 different projects which involved 33 of our volunteers, and contributed a total of 337 hours of Volunteer for Wildlife time to these important conservation projects. All of these projects are collaborative efforts; we have partnered with 13 different organizations and agencies (including 3 AWF Affiliate groups) to accomplish this important work.

What we have already accomplished through these projects is real and measurable. Since March of this year, our Volunteers for Wildlife have:

- Removed 2 miles of barbed wire fence in the Sonoran Desert National Monument to facilitate wildlife movement and prevent entanglements.
- Planted 1,200 desert shrubs to help restore a burned area on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge.
- Built dozens of brush piles to create and improve habitat for quail and other wildlife on the Buenos Aires NWR.
- Helped remove ponderosa pine trees to improve meadow habitat for elk, pronghorn, and other wildlife in the Coconino National Forest.
- Repaired and improved 2 miles of fence to keep horses and cattle out of wildlife habitat in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest.
- Planted 80 milkweed plants to create a Monarch Way Station at the Buenos Aires NWR.

The individuals who contribute their time to the Volunteer for Wildlife program have done a stellar job and truly made positive and lasting impacts on wildlife conservation in Arizona. Together, we've not only helped wildlife, but we've also made new friendships, learned conservation tips and tools together, and spent many pleasant hours in camp after a good day's work.

AWF would like to thank all our volunteers! Those who permitted us to use their names are listed here: Nikki Reck, Brick Cummings, Petra Orta, Susan Dowling, Steve Veltri, Sophia Pellegrini, Andrew Durkin, Emily Bogusch, Randy Tuttle, Melanie Abramson, Nicholas LaTora, Scott Garlid, Steven Allred, Glen Dickens, Betty Dickens, Juan Rivera, Charlie Mar, Layla Dowling, Theresa Vogt, Roger Vogt, Kristin Brown, Lucy Hyatt, Jayleen



A great crew of Volunteers for Wildlife installed a Monarch Way-Station at the Buenos Aires NWF.



AWF volunteers, along with BLM and AGFD personnel, removed 2 miles of fence in the Sonoran Desert National Monument.

Linn, Kelly Liska, Estelle Stern-Eilers, and Mike Shaw. A huge thank you to everyone, including our Affiliate and Agency partners as well.

We'd love you to join us! As a Volunteer for Wildlife, you too can contribute first hand to projects that directly help wildlife. If you'd like to sign up and be notified of upcoming projects, visit our web page at www.azwildlife.org/volunteer. You can also reach out to our Volunteer for Wildlife coordinator, Trica Oshant Hawkins at trica@azwildlife.org.



Records of Arizona Big Game 2020

The Arizona Record Book Committee has been working diligently to make sure this edition lives up to the expectation of the Golden Anniversary edition. The Record Book, which records the scores of game animals taken by hunters throughout Arizona, has been published every five years by AWF since 1970, making the Arizona Records Book the oldest state record book program of any state in our nation. Thank you for your patience as we finish the book. Now is a great time to order your book!

Purchase the book at: azwildlife.org/SHOP

Can we count on your help?

Visit www.azwildlife.org or call 480-702-1365 to give to AWF.



MAKE A DONATION

Choose a recurring donation or a one-time gift. Give to our general fund or a specific program. Give in honor or memory of a friend at <https://azwildlife.org/donate>.



BECOME A MEMBER

Join at the individual or distinguished veteran levels. Or choose the family membership to receive an additional magazine. Or become lifetime member.



SHOP WITH US

Purchase the Records of Arizona Big Game 50th anniversary edition or past editions on our website shop.



SMILE.AMAZON

Make AWF your charity every time you shop at www.smile.amazon.com. With no extra work from you, Amazon will give AWF .5% of your eligible purchases.



DONATE STOCKS

Share your investment wealth through the donation of stocks by contacting Board Treasurer Amanda Moors at amoores@cableone.net



LEAVE A LEGACY

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



CERTIFY YOUR GARDEN

Give the gift of habitat to wildlife and when you certify with the National Wildlife Federation, AWF will receive a portion of your certification charge.



GIVE RANGER RICK

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



VOLUNTEER

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

Become an AWF Member

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

AWF Membership Application

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

Thank You to Our Lifetime Members!

William Acheson	Clifton Cox	Donna Hallman	Nancy Lewis	Jim Pierce	Lewis Tenney Jr
Michael Anderson	Al Crossman	Cole Harvey	Phil Liles	Paul Pristo	Larry Thowe
Jeff Augustine	Anthony Diana	Bob Hernbrode	Heather Litton	Robert Rausch	Robert Tucker
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