



Arizona Sportsmen's Agenda

Sharing what matters with our elected officials

In Arizona, and throughout our country, the hunting and angling community has led the conservation dialog with practical solutions that benefit our wildlife and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for everyone.

Our public lands, waters, and fish and wildlife populations are precious resources that are enjoyed by all Arizonans. In this Sportsmen's Agenda, we share the key principles that will help our elected officials ensure that wildlife and the heritage of hunting and fishing live on for future generations.

Protect our rich heritage of hunting and fishing

The heritage of hunting and fishing has been passed down through the generations and has inspired countless Arizonans to conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat. It's more than just a family tradition, as research clearly shows the mental health and

quality of life benefits that come from connecting to the outdoors. **Leaders should recognize the benefits of this rich heritage and support efforts to get younger and more diverse participants into the outdoors.**

Keeping public lands and wildlife accessible

Access to Arizona's public lands, waters, and wildlife make our state an outdoor recreation destination. In fact, outdoor recreation is a 9.8-billion-dollar industry and supports over 100,000 jobs in our state. Any proposal to transfer or privatize these resources is a non-starter for sportsmen and sportswomen. Well-constructed land designations

with management plans that allow for appropriate multiple-use including hunting and fishing can help conserve these public land resources for generations to come. **Lawmakers should support cooperative solutions that respect private property rights, open access, and encourage responsible use.**

Dedicating funding for wildlife and habitat conservation

Sportsmen and sportswomen take great pride in funding conservation through license and tag purchases and excise taxes on hunting and fishing gear and ammunition. In fact, due to these programs, the Arizona Game and Fish Department takes no tax dollars from the Arizona General Fund. But those programs are not enough, nor should the full

burden of conservation funding fall to Arizona's sporting community. **Legislation that recognizes the economic benefits of outdoor recreation and broadens the burden of conservation funding is critical to the long term success of our state's wildlife and wild places.**

Managing our forest and water resources for resiliency

As the effects of long-term drought and loss of habitat become more evident, the sporting community has taken notice and engaged in finding solutions that add resiliency to our forests and wildlife populations. Proper and active management of our forests through mechanical removal,

prescribed fire, and eradication of invasive species is critical in ensuring healthy habitats for the future. **In a state where water is so precious, elected leaders must prioritize protection of our watersheds for the benefit of both Arizonans and wildlife.**

Committing to the North American model of wildlife conservation and science based wildlife management

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation forms the backbone of a system of policies and laws for conserving wildlife and habitat that is the envy of the world. There are seven guiding principles of this model including the propositions that scientific management is the proper means for

conservation decisions and that every individual should have an equal opportunity to hunt and fish. **Decision makers can build on our conservation legacy by supporting this model and the state agencies and dedicated biologists who manage our shared wildlife resources.**

Including Arizona's sporting community in discussions related to Arizona's great outdoors

Sportsmen and women in Arizona value decision makers that listen to the issues that are important to them. The Arizona Wildlife Federation and our partners are always available for discussion or advice

on any wildlife, habitat, or public land issues that arise. **We encourage decision makers to reach out and we are happy to meet in person, virtually, or by phone or email.**



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Partners:
Arizona Antelope Foundation (AAF) | Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society (ADBSS) | Arizona Elk Society (AES) | Arizona Mule Deer Organization (AMDO) | Arizona Quail Today | Arizona Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) | Arizona Predator Callers (APC) | Be Outdoors Arizona (BOA) | Christian Hunters of America (CHA) | Friends of Northern Arizona Forests (FoNAF) | Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO) | Southern AZ Quail Forever | Trout Unlimited (TU) | Valley of the Sun Quail Forever | Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club (YVRGC)