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ARIZONA WILDLIFE NEWS

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AWF MISSION STATEMENT

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

Front cover:

The front cover is courtesy of Lisa Langell, Langell Photography, www.langellphotography.com "Antelope are beautiful, but skittish creatures. Photographing them takes a great deal of patience! These antelope were photographed late in the day off a side road on the Arizona / New Mexico border using a Canon 7D Mark II and a 500mm f/4 USM IS lens. Using a car as a blind was helpful in safely approaching them without disturbance."

The back cover announces our 2015 Arizona Wildlife Trophies book, make sure to order one now! 480-644-0077

Special thanks to Ryan Kreuzer for the cover design & layout.

If you have a photo you would like to submit for our cover, please contact Kimberlee at awf@azwildlife.org

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President's Corner

By Brad Powell

Change is in the air, in green everywhere, in conversations, in the news, it's in our thoughts. Big change, the kind that really matters to all of us, every day it becomes clearer that this change is on the horizon. Change is one of the things that normally evokes resistance in each of us and to some it even has a negative connotation. While most resist change, not this one it is always embraced, anticipated and enjoyed.

I am already seeing the signs, I am sure you are seeing them as well. It's the type of change that captivates us all, its too big and too important not to occur and to arrive on time. Those of us that are on the mature side have seen this change many times. Enjoyed it year after year. As it approaches again there is a quickening of pace, more smiles, laughter and optimism. We are lucky in Arizona to experience these changes sooner than most anyone else in the country. I know political change and drama are dominating the headlines these days but I am not talking about political change, although there is plenty to talk about on that front and we often grow weary of those discussions. I am thinking of a more primal change, one that we each look forward to each year.

The signs are subtle at first but build in intensity and frequency until its evident to all. You can feel it in the air, sense it before you see it. It starts with green, slowly bursting out, coloring the landscapes in the deserts and the high mountains. The Green begins slowly and then with ever increasing frequency it begins to dominate the browns and whites of winter. Blue, the life blood of Arizona, clean cold clear water flows from the mountain snows, trickling at first and then rushing from the high country, nourishing our State, providing the foundation that all life depends on. Living in one of the Nation's driest States make this blue treasure even more essential and coveted. This year we received extra gifts, the lakes are filling, the desert is blooming and streams are flowing. Our states wildlife depends on this blue treasure and all of our lives are intertwined with this annual transfer of water from the mountains to the deserts. The winter's bounty is essential to nourish us as the seasons change.

Life is refreshed, renewed in the spring. Birds are singing, leaves are emerging, grass is growing, bees are buzzing, bears

are waking and the eternal annual search for mates in the wildlife world begins in earnest. Life is everywhere this time of year. Our linkage to nature is never stronger than the spring, when the connection is visceral and deeply felt. No matter your age, young or old, spring refreshes us, encourages us to anticipate the days ahead while contemplating springs of the past. Each and every one of us feels the power of spring and welcomes the new life that it brings.

If you are like me this time of year pulls on me. It pulls me to get out of the house and enjoy the natural bounties of our State. It pulls me to work harder to ensure that the public land treasures that harbor our states wildlife are conserved for future generations to enjoy just as I have had the good fortune to. It pulls me to share experiences with others, to take friends and family fishing, hiking, camping and sight seeing on the back roads of our State. It pulls me to help mentor those that have not yet had the opportunity to experience the great outdoor opportunities that abound in our State. It pulls me to talk to our legislators, to ensure that they understand how important public lands, clean water; clean air and healthy expanding wildlife populations are to me and to the citizens of the State and it pulls me to be thankful that another spring is here, and to recognize that some changes are eternal and life giving.

Letters to the Editor

Keep your communications short and to the point. All must be signed. If you send us questions, we will seek answers and print them here. There may be times mail volume may prevent us from publishing every letter we receive, but we will do our best to print as many as possible.

Send your 'snail mail' to:
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REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Region 1 – 2017 First Quarter Report



The Mexican Wolf Interagency Field Team (IFT) completed the annual year-end population survey, documenting a minimum of 113 Mexican wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico at the end of 2016. This compares with a minimum of 97 wild wolves in 2015.

In the spring of 2016, the IFT successfully fostered six genetically diverse pups from the captive breeding program into similarly aged litters of established packs in the wild. Cross-fostering was first implemented in 2014 when a male and female pup were placed in the Dark Canyon pack's den in New Mexico. Last summer, the IFT observed that a cross-fostered male dispersed from his pack and is traveling with a female wolf. The IFT also confirmed the cross-fostered female is now the breeding female in the Leopold pack.

The results of the survey reflects the end-of-year minimum experimental population for 2016. Results come from population data collected by the IFT on the ground from November through December of 2016, as well as from an aerial survey conducted in January and February 2017. This number is considered a minimum number of Mexican wolves known to exist in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico; other Mexican wolves may be present.

The aerial survey was conducted by fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter. Biologists used radio telemetry and actual sightings of wolves to determine the count. The results of the survey reflect the end-of-year minimum experimental population for 2016. Results come from population data collected by the IFT on the ground from November through December of 2016, as well as from an aerial survey conducted in January and February 2017. This number is considered a minimum number of Mexican wolves known to exist in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico; other Mexican

wolves may be present.

The results from the aerial survey, coupled with the ground survey conducted by the IFT, confirmed:

There are a total of 21 packs, with a minimum of 50 wolves in New Mexico and 63 wolves in Arizona.

The 2016 minimum population count includes 50 wildborn pups that survived through the end of the year compared to 23 pups surviving in 2015.

Six wolf pups were cross-fostered in 2016. Three are known to be alive, one of which is radio collared.

There were 13 documented Mexican wolf mortalities in 2016. Two mortalities occurred during last year's count and 11 are under investigation by the Service's Office of Law Enforcement in an effort to determine cause of death. If available, more information will be provided in the IFT 2016 annual report.

The Mexican wolf is the rarest subspecies of gray wolf in North America. Once common throughout portions of the southwestern United States and Mexico, it was all but eliminated from the wild by the 1970s. In 1977, the Service initiated efforts to conserve the species by developing a bi-national captive breeding program with seven Mexican wolves. In 1998, Mexican wolves were released to the wild for the first time in Arizona and New Mexico within the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area.

The Mexican wolf recovery program is a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, White Mountain Apache Tribe, USDA Forest Service and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Wildlife Services, and several participating counties.

Wolf or Coyote?

Know the Differences



Mexican Wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*)

- Nose is broad and blocky
- Ears are more rounded and relatively short
- Fur color is very similar to coyotes: grizzled gray, black, rust or buff; not all white or all black
- Legs are longer, giving wolves a more lanky appearance; feet are larger
- Weighs 50–80 pounds
- Sometimes displays curious behavior and may not flee as quickly
- Not all wolves have radio collars
- Front paw is 4 1/2 inches long by 3 1/2 inches wide

Description: Smaller than a northern gray wolf but larger than a coyote. Adults are 70–80 pounds and 30 inches at the shoulder. Adults are 5–5.5 feet long, including a 14- to 17-inch tail. Males are larger than females. Head and feet are large in proportion to body. Small, erect ears with wide tufts of hair that grow out and down are one of the Mexican wolf's most distinctive features. Body color is often mottled or patchy, varying from gray and black to brown and buff.

Habitat: Mid- to high-elevation woodlands, including oak, piñon pine, juniper, ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests. Almost all historical records of Mexican wolves in Arizona occurred above 4,500 feet in elevation. Habitat must contain large ungulate prey animals for wolves to thrive.

Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

- Nose is slender and pointed
- Ears are prominent, pointed and relatively long
- Fur color is very similar to wolves: grizzled gray, rust or buff; rarely white or black
- Legs and feet are smaller, more delicate
- Weighs 20–35 pounds
- Usually displays skittish behavior, tends to flee immediately
- Front paw is 2 1/2 inches long by 2 inches wide

Description: Coyotes are on the small side, weighing less than 35 pounds. An adult measures about 21 inches tall at the shoulder, with a total length of up to 49 inches. The coyote looks much like a shepherd dog, the pelage being rather long, heavy and often presenting a shaggy or grizzled appearance. The fur is reddish or tawny gray, sometimes tipped with black. The tail is large and very bushy. Ears are upright, and the slender muzzle is sharply pointed. Seasonal color variation is considerable among coyotes, and immature pelage is grayer and duller than that of an adult.

Habitat: All habitats are occupied, from low desert to montane forest and woodland, but the coyote tends to avoid thickly forested, high elevation areas.

Region II - Tom Mackin
Regional Director

November 2016-January 2017



November 21 – Participated in the NWF Conservation Funding Caucus call

November 22 – Attended the Arizona for Wildlife Conservation meeting, approved license plate grants for \$26,000 for various habitat, education and recruitment activities

November 25 – Made repairs on the Tusayan water for wildlife pipeline, damaged by freezing temperatures

November 29 – Met with AZGFD Regional Supervisor Craig McMullen to discuss proposed Coconino N. F. plan as well as several aspects of the current TMR throughout the State

December 3 – Attended the quarterly AWF Board meeting

December 8 – Attended a meeting of the Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience where we discussed the new website, upcoming activities and plans for the next meeting

December 9 – With another volunteer we removed woven wire sheep fence from 2 sides of a water lot to make it easier for pronghorn and other wildlife to access the water. Plans are to remove the remaining two sides in the near future. The fence was reconstructed as a standard 4 wire fence with the bottom strand being smooth wire at the 18” height

December 13 – With other volunteers we repaired a wildlife water trick tank in GMU6A, replacing missing apron panels, installing a new float valve system and repairing the

exclosure fence

December 14 – Continued work in GMU7E removing sheep wire around water development

December 15 – Met with the Executive Director of the Willow Bend Environmental Education Center to discuss joint Willow Bend/Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience(AWWE) field trips in 2017

December 15 – Participated in NWF Conservation Funding Caucus call

December 19 – With another volunteer we completed the removal of sheep fence surrounding a waterlot in GMU7E, improving the access and visibility for visiting wildlife

December 20 – With another volunteer we visited three trick tanks in GMU 5BN, checking water levels and taking photos to update the RAA map on the AZGFD I Support Wildlife portal

December 23 – With another FoNAF volunteer we removed 6 fallen trees from 3 aspen exclosure fences and made preliminary repairs to get us by until Spring allows better access

January 4 – Attended Western Rivers Action Network Update meeting, Audubon Center, Phoenix

January 4 – Attended meeting in Flagstaff with other local AZGFD Volunteer Hunter Education Instructors to discuss plans for 2017 classes and Field Days



Old Sheep Wire “Before”



New 4 Strand Wire “After”



1941 Era Trick Tank “Before”



2016 Version “After”

January 10 – Participated in 4FRI Steering Committee monthly conference call, discussing agenda for 4FRI meeting and other topics

January 10 – Attended the AZSFWC monthly meeting, received presentation from AZGFD Legislative representatives, discussed changes to AZSFWC Board leadership and other items

January 11 – Attended Northern Arizona Shooting Foundation (NASF) Board meeting, reviewed 2016 financials, discussed 2017 proposed budget, range hours and possible seasonal closure

January 12 – Attended 4FRI Comprehensive Implementation Workgroup (CIWG) meeting, reviewed potential projects, funding and received presentation on methodology for prioritizing task order activities based on industry and ecological benefits

January 15 – Volunteered with FONAF to issue Forest Service Back Country Permits at Arizona Snowbowl

January 16 – Participated in AWF Executive Committee monthly conference call, discussing finances, Board participation and other related items

January 18 – Attended Board meeting of Friends of Northern Arizona Forests (FoNAF), hearing various Coconino National Forest Service plans for 2017 work season where FoNAF assistance is requested

January 20 – Assisted with AZGFD Hunter Education On-Line testing and field exercise

January 25 – Attended the monthly 4FRI stakeholder group meeting, received updates on monitoring, prescribed burning, thinning and other topics

January 29 – Volunteered with FONAF to issue Forest Service Back Country Permits at Arizona Snowbowl

January 30 – Renewed my First Aid, CPR, and BBP certifications required to maintain my FS Sawyer certification

February 1 – Met with Coconino County Supervisor Art Babbott, discussed 4FRI, 1872 Mining Act, local forest issues caused by snow-play visitors

February 1 – Attended presentation on proposed 4FRI treatment prioritization activities to achieve both restoration ecological and industry goals

February 2 – Participated in NWF monthly Wildlife Funding

Caucus conference call

February 2 – Attended meeting with FoNAF to discuss cooperative efforts on Forest Service 2017 planned activities. Agreed to provide 24 work days in support of the planned tasks.

February 3 – Attended Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience to discuss new website and planned new brochure/map

February 9 – Participated in the NWF Sportsman’s Caucus conference call, providing feedback on the proposed GCNM

February 9 – Attended the first classroom session of the AZGFD Hunter Education Class for 25 students in Flagstaff

February 11 - Attended the third classroom session of the AZGFD Hunter Education Class for 25 students in Flagstaff

February 12 - Attended the field day session of the AZGFD Hunter Education Class for 25 students in Flagstaff

February 14 – Participated in the monthly 4FRI Steering Committee call, developing the agenda items for the February meeting to be held in Showlow on February 22

February 15 - Attended Northern Arizona Shooting Foundation (NASF) Board meeting, reviewed current financials, discussed 2017 planned activities, range hours and possible seasonal closure

February 16 – Attended an avalanche awareness seminar for the San Francisco Peaks and issued back country permits for those wishing to leave the Snowbowl ski area and venture into the wilderness areas adjacent to Snowbowl

February 17 – Attended the Diablo Trust Annual meeting and gave a presentation on “Conservation in Cattle Country”

February 19 – Met with a representative of the Wildlands Network to discuss wildlife linkages and corridors

February 22 – Attended the monthly 4FRI Stake Holder Group meeting in Showlow where we discussed planning for the Rim Country 2nd EIS area, updates from the Forest Service on recent activities as well as updates from other stakeholders regarding other related activities.

February 28 – Attended the monthly Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation meeting where the annual elections were held as well as receiving information from AZGFD on current legislative activities.

Making a Difference

Friends of Northern Arizona Forests

By Tom Mackin

Making repairs to damaged fence, Summer 2016



We all know that there are things that never seem to get done, there's not enough time in the day or funds are not available but there is a group that diligently works to "Make a Difference" in the forests of northern Arizona, the Friends of Northern Arizona Forests, or FoNAF for short. Founded in 2009 in Flagstaff by several individuals interested in assisting the Coconino National Forest with tasks that were needed but difficult to fund or allocate manpower to accomplish. Their Mission Statement is quoted below:

Friends of Northern Arizona Forests is dedicated to assisting the United States Forest Service in maintaining, protecting, and

restoring the natural and cultural resources and the scenic beauty of our forest lands for the enjoyment and use of present and future generations. We are a solution-oriented volunteer group that works in partnership with the Forest Service to assist the Service in tasks it does not have the staff or the funds to accomplish on its own. In addition, we seek to connect the community and the Forest Service to the benefit of both parties and of the forest itself.

Incorporated as a 501c.3 all volunteer organization with approximately 50 current members, this group meets with various Forest Service leaders and develops action plans, funding sources and timeframes for completing tasks that might otherwise fall by



Unspooling woven wire for new fence

the wayside or take years to accomplish. The tasks are varied and diverse, but that provides an opportunity for each member to find their niche and not feel left out or lacking in overall skills. Since 2010, the group has donated and coordinated over 12,000 hours of labor on the Coconino National Forest, with over 4,000 in 2016 alone.

Some of the more common tasks involve the construction and maintenance of over 60 aspen exclosures, 8' tall woven wire fences that protect young aspen from ungulate browsing, mainly on the higher elevations of the Flagstaff Ranger District near Flagstaff. The exclosures vary in size but average about 5 acres or more and they're checked twice a year by volunteers for damage from falling trees, excessive snowloads, vandalism or other causes. In addition, they respond to reports from Forest Service folks, hikers, cross country skiers or others and repairs are quickly made. With aspen throughout the West in serious decline in many areas, new exclosures, planned by Forest Service silviculturists are also constructed each year and existing exclosures that have served their purpose and allowed trees to reach a stable age or where disease or other damage has progressed to far, exclosures have also been dismantled and materials recycled when possible

In addition to aspen exclosures, log worm fences are often built/repared to reduce OHV damage to wetlands, meadows or other sensitive areas. These fences are also used to block closed roads, social trails or areas where the goal is to reduce the spread or noxious invasive vegetation like dalmation toadflax, leafy spurge and numerous others.

Other tasks performed by this group include issuing Back Country permits at the Arizona Snowbowl during ski season for those hardy individuals that wish to leave the ski area boundry and venture into the wilderness for skiing, hiking or snowshoeing. Each weekend, teams of two volunteers station themselves at the Agassiz Lodge and following a brief discussion with permit applicants about being prepared for the back country, emergency procedures, avalanche dangers and other important topics, the permits are issued and a log maintained of the applicant name and

emergency contact information should something go amiss.

During recent summer months, time is often spent working with Forest Service wildlife staff and AZGFD folks on modifying miles of existing fences to make them more wildlife friendly, especially in the area north of the San Francisco Peaks. Many of the fences currently inhibit pronghorn movement and so the volunteers remove the bottom existing barbed wire, replace it with smooth wire, placed 18-20" above the ground where the pronghorn can scoot under but livestock remains in their approved pastures. Additional fence repairs and construction is also provided adjacent to riparian streams or wetlands to reduce compaction or pollution as well as reducing damage from illegal crosscountry OHV and vehicle traffic.

In closing, this group certainly is Making a Difference. For further information visit their website at:

<http://www.friendsofnazforests.org/>



MONARCHS



Tom Koerner-USFWS



Rick Hansen-USFWS

BY DAVID MIZEJEWSKI

NEW NUMBERS SHOW MONARCH BUTTERFLY POPULATIONS STILL IN TROUBLE

The annual population status report for the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) has been released showing a 27-percent decrease from last year's population.

Populations of this once-common iconic black and orange butterfly have plummeted by approximately 90 percent in just the last two decades. The threats to the species are the loss of habitat in the United States—both the lack of availability of milkweed, the only host food plant for monarch caterpillars, as well as nectar plants needed by adults—through land conversion of habitat for agriculture, removal of native plants and the use of pesticides, and loss of habitat in Mexico from illegal logging around the monarchs' overwintering habitat. The new population numbers underscore the need to continue conservation measures to reverse this trend.

A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

The population is evaluated by measuring the number of hectares occupied by the monarch butterflies in their

overwintering habitat in Mexico. This year there are an estimated 109 million monarchs occupying just 2.91 hectares (7.2 acres), down from 150 million last year covering 4.01 hectares (9.9 acres).

Monarch Population 2016 -2017

The monarch population found west of the Rockies, which migrates to California rather than Mexico, has also severely declined but looks to have remained at the same level as last year.

Despite the alarming overall decline in the monarch population, there is some reason to be cautiously optimistic about efforts to help monarchs. Shortly after last year's population numbers were released, severe late-season storms hit monarch overwintering sites in Mexico, which scientists estimate killed anywhere from 7.4 percent of the population to as much as 50 percent of some of the overwintering colonies. This mortality was not reflected in the official population number last year, meaning that far fewer monarchs actually survived to migrate north in the spring of 2016.

In the best-case scenario of a 7.4 percent mortality, the monarch population that actually migrated north was just 139 million, not 150 million, and so only decreased by 22 percent rather than the 27 percent based on pre-storm population numbers. In the worst-case hypothetical scenario of 50 percent mortality from the storms, only 75 million monarchs would have survived to migrate north in 2016 but were able to build up their population to the current number of 109 million, showing a possible 45 percent increase in population.

Whether it was favorable weather conditions throughout the rest of 2016 or the restoration of habitat for monarchs across the United States—or both—these various scenarios show that if given the right conditions and habitat, the species has the potential to recover.

GET INVOLVED TO SAVE MONARCHS

Even so, in any scenario, the species' population remains dangerously low. Immediate action is needed to protect and restore monarch habitat. The good news is that on the local level, individuals can get involved by planting native milkweed and nectar plants right in their own yards.

The National Wildlife Federation is a member of the Monarch Joint Venture, a coalition of groups working together to save monarchs, and has made monarch conservation a priority, working to recover the species in the following ways:

MAYORS' MONARCH PLEDGE

The National Wildlife Federation has engaged over 260 mayors and other community leaders in pledging to restore monarch habitat by planting milkweed as a caterpillar host plant, nectar plants for the adult monarchs, eschewing pesticides and other actions that support monarch populations. These cities and municipalities in the monarchs' main migratory flyway, from Austin, TX to the Great Lakes, are committing to create habitat and educate citizens about how they can make a difference at home. Tucson's Mayor Jonathan Rothschild has taken the Monarch Pledge for his City.

Get involved in the Mayors' Monarch Pledge (<http://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/About/National-Initiatives/Mayors-Monarch-Pledge.aspx>).

GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE

This signature program educates millions of Americans each year on how to restore habitat for birds, butterflies such as the monarch, and other wildlife right their yards, gardens and neighborhoods. The National Wildlife Federation recognizes such garden spaces as Certified Wildlife Habitats. Over 200,000 Certified Wildlife Habitats have been designated in suburban yards, community

gardens, schools, places of worship, parks, botanic gardens, zoos and other public spaces. Entire communities, cities and counties such as Austin, TX and Broward County, FL have achieved Certified Community Wildlife Habitat status.

Get involved in Garden for Wildlife (<https://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife.aspx>).

NATIONAL POLLINATOR GARDEN NETWORK

The National Wildlife Federation has helped convene an unprecedented number of conservation and gardening organizations, as well as garden industry members, to launch the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge, a campaign to raise awareness on what Americans can do to help pollinators and register a million pollinator and monarch-friendly gardens by the end of 2018.

Learn more about the National Pollinator Garden Network (<http://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/About/National-Initiatives/Plant-for-Pollinators.aspx>).

LARGE LANDSCAPE HABITAT WORK

The National Wildlife Federation is working with partners in the agriculture industry to establish more monarch-friendly practices such as adding and preserving native plant buffer zones around fields and riparian areas, adjusting mowing schedules and spraying practices to minimize impacts to pollinator habitat. We are also working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, our state affiliates, and state Wildlife Agencies to create state plans to conserve grasslands, establish power line right of way habitat, and promote roadside habitat planting along monarch's main migratory route.

Learn more about Large Landscape Habitat Work (<http://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/About/National-Initiatives/Pollinators.aspx>).

BUTTERFLY HEROES

This annual campaign aims at engaging kids and families in butterfly conservation. Participants pledge to plant butterfly gardens and receive a starter kit from the National Wildlife Federation which includes native milkweed or nectar plants for monarchs and educational and how-to information on creating a butterfly garden. This spring the campaign kicks off on March 27 and goes through May 19, 2017.

Get involved in Butterfly Heroes (<http://www.nwf.org/Butterfly-Heroes/Getting-Started.aspx>).

The San Pedro River – A Great Place to Explore and Draw a Javelina Tag

George Andrejko-AZGFD

UNIT 37B - FEBRUARY 2017

By Thomas Hulen

Arizona offers countless opportunities for outdoor activities. No matter the time of year, the chances of having weather suitable for an outdoor adventure is highly likely, if you are willing to travel a little. Fortunately, Arizona's ample supply of public land makes it easy to find a place to hike, hunt, fish, ride a bike, bird watch or responsibly ride an OHV.

February of 2017, I was fortunate to draw a HAM, handgun, archery, muzzle loader, for javelina in Game Management Unit 37B. According to what I read on the Arizona Game and Fish website and from hunters experienced in that unit, I would have no trouble finding a javelina.

I have spent some time in the unit, mostly near Picket Post Mountain and the White Canyon Wilderness, but what I wanted to do this time was to explore areas along the San Pedro River.

The San Pedro has fascinated me for some time. The cottonwood-willow gallery woodland is in pretty good shape where many species find habitat suitable for their needs. The San Pedro River provides habitat composed of...

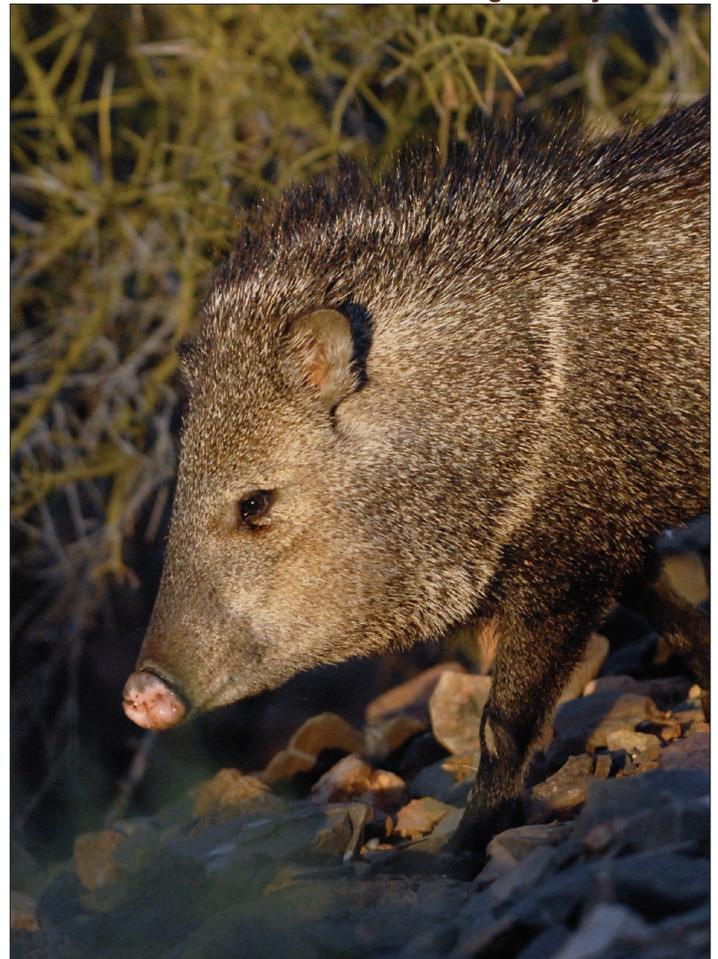
"Fremont cottonwood-Goodding willow forest and mesquite bosques (forests) that host 345 species of birds including 13 species of breeding raptors, and is a major migratory pathway for neotropical birds such as Gray Hawk and the rare Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo. It is also the residence for more than 80 species of mammals, 40 species of reptiles and amphibians, 100 species of butterflies and 20 species of bats."¹

The National Audubon Society classifies much of the San Pedro River corridor an Audubon Important Bird Area.

For more information go to:

<http://audubon.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=3c48121bd41945d68aacd1ded71841a4>

People have lived along the river for thousands of years and I knew from reading that there are hundreds, if not thousands, of archaeological sites near the river's edge.



Ancient archaic American Indians, approximately 10,000 BCE, Hohokam-Salado CE 1-1450, Apache people CE 1500 to present and people of European descent CE 1539 to present. The prehistory and history of this area is amazing. Luckily for us archaeologists, biologists, historians and the oral traditions of many American Indian communities, there is a lot of information for us to learn and enjoy.

One of my new hobbies, my wife says I have too many, is to visit farmer's markets. At least once a month I go to the Gilbert Farmer's Market. At this market I discovered the Double Check Ranch that sells 100% grass fed beef. I have purchased beef from this ranch several times. It is lean and delicious and in my experience tender. I was so impressed I went to the ranch's website to learn more about the ranch and their horticultural philosophy where I discovered they have a cabin for rent along the San Pedro River in unit 37B. I immediately reserved the cabin for a few days and started planning my hunt.

Hunting for me involves learning about the natural and cultural history of an area. I do this because I am interested, but it also guarantees for me a great time. For instances when my hunt is skunked, I still have a great time.

Bird watching and looking for archaeological sites always saves the day.

There is a great deal of information about the history of the San Pedro River and for me I only had to go to my own library to find much of the information I needed. Goode P. Davis, Jr.'s excellent read, Man and Wildlife in Arizona published by the Arizona Game and Fish Department took me straight to the Double Check Ranch where I would be staying.

According to the Double Check Ranch website the famous site, Malpais Hill, is located on the ranches' property. Malpais Hill, along what the famous trapper James Ohio Pattie in 1825 called the Beaver River, today's San Pedro River, is where he encountered javelina in great numbers. Pattie, quoted below describing the San Pedro River bottoms and javelina he encountered. (I cannot help think that Mr. Pattie was prone to exaggeration) It never the less, got me even more excited about hunting javelina in the area around the ranch.

"Its banks are still plentifully timbered with cottonwood and willow. The bottoms on each side afford a fine soil for cultivation. In these bottoms are great numbers of wild hogs, a species entirely different from our domestic swine. They are foxcolored [sic], with their naval on their back, towards the back part of their bodies. The hoof on their hind feet has but one dew-claw, and they have an odor not less offensive than our polecat. Their figure and head are not unlike our swine, except their tail resembles that of a bear. We measured one of their tusks, of a size so enormous, that I am afraid to commit my credibility, by giving the dimensions."²

Pattie went on to say that javelinas are ferocious and they had to kill many to protect themselves. Furthermore, he believed they were inedible. I disagree on all accounts having encountered hundreds in my lifetime and have eaten several.

Hiking within the river's corridor I saw lots of javelina tracks as well as dog, raccoon, fox and bobcat. One local farmer informed me there were packs of feral hogs & dogs roaming the river's corridor and a hybrid feral hog-javelina. The so called hybrid was the ugliest creature he had ever seen and he would appreciate it if we killed the feral dogs and the hybrid monster since his sheep were lambing.

Telling the difference between this hybrid and the neighborhood dogs out for a good time is probably not within my skill set and I am certain that domestic swine and javelina do not successfully interbreed. Keeping Pattie's recounting of javelina tusks so enormous he was afraid to commit his credibility of size in mind, I hoped I would encounter this beast. Although I did not, feral hogs or a hog

have been reported by others in this unit. Most recently in Arizona Wildlife Views January/February Johnathan O'Dell recounts his experience with a feral hog in unit 37B some time ago.

I did see quite a few javelina on nearby Arizona State Trust Land. Their sign, tracks and feces were abundant, and I merely followed their tracks until I found them trying to avoid me and my occasional predator calls. One javelina approached me within about 12 feet, but the brush was too thick for a clean shot with my revolver. I did manage to draw my revolver two times, pull the hammer back and aimed hoping to rocket a lead free copper jacketed bullet straight into the heart and lungs of the largest javelina in my view, but each time I saw babies and moms nearby. The fear of killing a baby or its mother made taking a shot too risky, so I declined to fire.

Even though I did not fill my tag, I still had an excellent hunt. I had at least two good stalks, saw plenty of javelina, about 20 or so, and enjoyed exploring the area. I was hoping to put Johnathan O'Dells Smoked Glazed Javelina Ham recipe to the test, but without harvesting a Javelina, it was made impossible. The Double Check Ranch managers gave us Carne Asada as a consolation prize.

By the way, if you book the cabin at the Double Check Ranch the ranch provides generous samples of their beef and pork for renters.

¹ Western Rivers Action Network (WRAN)

² Davis, Jr. Goode, P. 1982. Man and Wildlife in Arizona: The American Exploration Period 1824-1865. The Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix. (page 16)

Double Check Ranch



Arizona Wildlife Federations 94th Annual Meeting

Sipe Visitor Center



The Arizona Wildlife Federation announces its 94th Annual Meeting and Awards event, June 3, 2017. We would like to invite you to join us at Sipes White Mountain Wildlife Visitor Center for our meeting marking 94 years of continuous work for wildlife.

Affiliates it's time to think about delegates, getting your membership records updated, and resolutions you'd like to present or candidates for office you'd like to nominate. Information and instructions on requirements and activities will be arriving in your e-mail soon.

The usual business meeting will be taking place, including elections, resolutions, and a post-annual board of directors meeting. Beyond that we plan to have enjoyable speakers, great camaraderie and the provision of some "kickback" time for your enjoyment. Watch for further communiques from our office with directions and a map, an agenda, and other information relating to our Annual Meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Kimberlee at 480-644-0077.

WE ARE SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE AWF ANNUAL AWARDS

[The Thomas E. McCulloch Memorial Award > Professional](#)

For the most outstanding overall effort and achievement, or most significant contribution to the cause of a major conservation issue or project in the state during the period by a professional individual acting within the capacity of their respective career field. This effort can be in any field of natural resource management, including the enhancement and preservation of natural beauty, etc.

[The Thomas E. McCulloch Memorial Award > Non-Professional](#)

For the most significant contribution to the cause of a major conservation issue or project during the period; or for a lifetime of conservation efforts in the state by a non-professional. This effort can be in any field of natural resource conservation, including the enhancement and preservation of natural beauty, fish, wildlife, or habitat, etc.

[Patti Ho Lifetime Achievement Award](#)

For the most significant contribution of service to the Arizona Wildlife Federation by an individual during the tenure or tenure's of service within the ranks of the organization. This effort should be those duties relating to office, board of directors, committees, or special projects wherein the efforts evolved significant dedication, change, or direction of involvement in issues, policies, or procedures, which enhanced the operation, status, finances, and performance of the Federation and collaborative efforts with AWF and its supporters.

For a full list of award categories, please visit azwildlife.org NOTE: EACH WINNER MUST BE TRULY DESERVING OF RECOGNITION, IF THERE NO NOMINEES OR OUTSTANDING NOMINEES IN A CATEGORY, AN AWARD WILL NOT BE GIVEN. Members and clubs who would like to make nominations should contact the AWF office at 480-644-0077 for further information about nomination procedures.

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difference by inviting wildlife back to your own yard or neighborhood by planting a simple garden that provides 5 key elements: Food, Water, Cover, Places to Raise Young & Sustainable Practices.

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Visit Arizona Wildlife Federation's new webpage for your tips and certification instructions at: azwildlife.org/garden

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Holly “Da Moose” Dickinson

by Linda Dightmon and Holly Dickinson

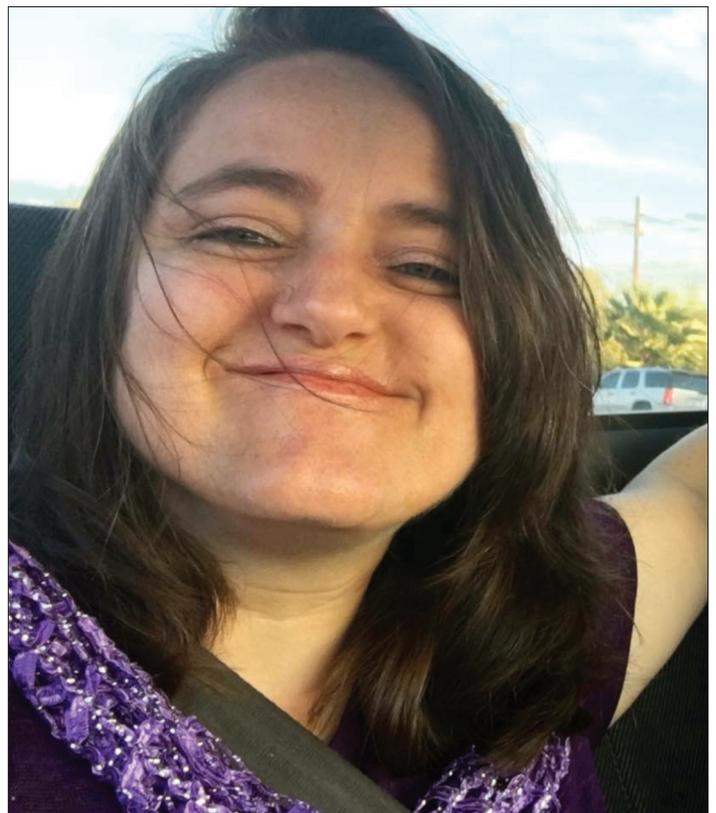
She is an important part of the BOW team.” Linda Dightmon



That Aha! moment. We have all experienced them. I was the rookie attending a coordinator’s conference in rural Arkansas. During one of the meetings, we were all given a course curriculum from West Virginia. It was one of their most popular sessions. The title of the class was “Outdoor Personal Hygiene”. What? Do we really need to teach women how to well...you know. The answer from my colleagues was a resounding YES. BOW is about breaking down barriers and this was a huge one. Aha! The next Aha! was almost simultaneous. It will take the right instructor to pull it off. Aha! HOLLY... Girl Scout leader, mom of four and a repeat participant. Some of our best instructors come from prior participants. Holly, as I suspected, accepted the challenge and 12 years later she teaches her own popular class.

*I started teaching a course that belonged to an instructor from another state, another BOW. After that first time teaching it, I knew that while much of the information was excellent, there was need of more. More of something different. After a few years of teaching it, I had fully developed my own course with my own course title. I felt it was better fitting to what the women were asking for and were needing to learn. That first course I developed is my **Outdoors Essentials** course.. This incredible course allows women to discuss many “personal” topics that are normally not mentioned. Not only do I create a comfortable environment for them to discuss such things in relating to their outdoor experiences, in addition we laugh and enjoy the “lightness” of it all. This is KEY for women to open up and discuss those*

burning questions that may be keeping them from enjoying time in the Outdoors. Another favorite part is learning techniques for going to the bathroom in the Outdoors. This is a crucial skill for any woman who wants to spend extended time in the Outdoors. And I make it FUN!!



of their class in order to continually develop their courses.

I also teach some very important topics with diagrams so that their thoughts about the Outdoors becomes less intimidating and more doable. I relate my true outdoor experiences to the teachings of these skills so the women can picture these skills in a real life environment. Experiences from camping to backpacking to traveling beyond our country (India and Africa these last two years), using many of these skills. The sharing of the real life experiences are one of the favorite parts of the course for these women.

We maximize her talents as one of the key members of the team. She is an important part of the BOW team. The team that works hard to keep events moving smoothly. (Well, smooth as possible.) Every participant knows Holly. She is introduced at the welcoming where she helps to set the atmosphere with campy songs.

14 years ago I began attending the Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) weekends twice a year; the latter 11 years attending as an instructor. As an instructor I continued to take a few BOW courses each time as well, in order to keep my outdoor education updated and relevant.

A couple of years ago Holly came to us with an idea for a new session. We had actually tried a version (unsuccessfully) a decade ago. Then we called it "Journaling" but Holly had a better idea.

*My newest course of a couple years now, is **Unplug & Unwind**, on Sundays. A great course to close up your weekend adventure at BOW.*

***Unplug Unwind** was an instant success and has been from that first time. I actually sensed that it would be and here's why. Through the years at BOW, I spend my time at BOW with the participants. I sleep in participant cabins instead of instructor cabins. It's a whole different experience. One that I love. By doing this, I came to learn what the participants wanted out of BOW. Just by hearing the chatter in the cabins or at the meals or campfires.*

Many of the women were wanting a class that they could unwind at the end of the weekend and just enjoy the environment of the fresh air in the outdoors, the pine trees, and quiet.

From that simple desire from so many women, I built the course. I provide them with a journal and pen and then with the few items I asked them to bring in order to be comfortable, we head for a walk as a group into the pine trees. I have a lovely spot that we go to each time. We get comfortable and then I offer a few questions for them to journal about their BOW weekend. Then the ladies have time to spread out a blanket or a camp chair and read, paint, draw, take a nap, take photos, or reflect and journal. It has been loved by every woman that takes the course as I offer my own personal evaluations for my courses so I can always grow and expand for these women to learn and experience more from my courses. I believe every instructor should evaluate at the end

She plays the important role as Master of Ceremonies for the BOW Follies on Saturday night. I am always amazed at the hysterical and sometimes moving skits, poems, songs that the ladies come up with. Sometimes with her help and sometimes on their own. Lesson being, we are here to learn but also to have fun and it is ok to be silly sometimes.

I bring incredible knowledge, experience, and outdoor wisdom with me as an adult facilitator and leader of many types and positions within the Boy Scout organization of 20 years now and the Girl Scout organization of 18 years simultaneously. Many of those years achieving some very high awards and honors within those organizations.

And then there is Holly's traditional "moose skit" in which she has been pop gunned, ambushed, had the entire front row attack her with squirt guns and once or twice absolutely nothing happened. She takes it all with great sportswoman-ship. Everybody loves Holly.

Incredible Personal growth has taken place in the 14 years at BOW. Not just in the information learned by taking classes, but in self-development. BOW has provided a safe, friendly environment for self expansion. BOW offers that to every woman from every walk of life. Each person's growth and expansion is very personal and comes in many ways.

As a mother of 4, now adult children, I raised my children in the Outdoors. I taught them to love, respect, and appreciate what nature has to offer us. As a Girl Scout troop leader of 18 years, I did the same for my troop. As well as in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Beginning this April, one of my adult daughters will begin as a BOW instructor as well. I am very excited that Katarina has decided to follow some of the paths I have taken. I am excited for her to develop and expand herself and more of her skills through the friendly BOW environment.



Holly Dickinson is a Master Educator of Leave No Trace, Outdoor Ethics and is a published Author.



Historical Tales

Reproduced by Ryna Rock from Arizona Wildlife Sportsmen, December 1949

TIME TO TAKE STOCK

by Chuck Morgan

In most activities it's standard practice to stop occasionally and look around. This "spin-the-compass", or check the course, procedure is smart business. Besides helping you see where you're going, it also lets you see where you've been. Right now's a good time to check the course of game and fish affairs here in Arizona, many sportsmen are saying. Where are we going? Where have we been? What's on the books for the years ahead? Many inquiring outdoorsmen are asking these questions.

With the hike in license fees now effective, they want to know specifically, what will be done for them. "Them" obviously means their own locality or their particular sport interest. As a magazine writer interested in personal opinions, I've been in on dozens of campfire bull sessions the past few years. From Tucson to Torowep, from Haulaupi Wash to Hannigan Meadows, I've sipped coffee with a huge variety of outdoor characters. I've heard countless gripes about our sport. I've also heard a lot of darned good ideas, plans for projects, schemes to improve game and fish conditions for everyone. Some of these ideas I'd like to pass along for general consideration.

Many sportsmen back in the brush, far from the neon lights and juke boxes, are afraid the increased revenue from the license hike will "evaporate" on "worthless" projects and paper work. Specifically they rant at wildcat scientific or experimental schemes consuming much cash, manpower and time, but

producing nothing more valuable than a fat typed report. Honest efforts, mistakes and poor ideas that failed, they can excuse within reason. They feel a certain amount of cut-and-try is necessary in this game. But "surveys or investigations" pure and simple, with no definite need or accomplishment recorded, gets their goats.

They want action, worthwhile effort, progress instead of promises, "studies or surveys". The quotes above are theirs, not mine. for some reason they seem especially leery of scientific efforts that failed.

As a trained scientist and former practicing engineer, I know too well the paperwork investigations that produced nothing but headaches. I also know such studies often lead to miracles. But we'll all admit there's plenty of practical projects that have been kicked around for years. No study or lengthy investigation is necessary to swing them. The mere word to "go ahead" from the right authority, and the bull work to finish the job will turn the trick. These are the projects the boys in the brush are interested in seeing improved.

Most of their ideas are sound. A few are borderline. Some are probably pipe dreams. But the Rucker Dam planners and doers were pipe dreamers to many lazy, tight-fisted characters not so long ago. Today they're gifted conservation planners. I've come to believe that most anything within reason is possible, IF only it's begun.

Contrary to the publicly expressed views of authoritative game and fish personnel, that Arizona was never a game and fish paradise, I cite the many reports of early army explorers and frontiersmen of this area. Whipple, Beale, Sitgreaves, Big Bill Williams, Pauline Weaver, and others refer repeatedly to the vast populations of game and fish in this region. Perhaps some of the sportsman "pipe dreams" listed here may help to restore that abundant sport of earlier years.

Javelina, apparently, are of more interest to sportsmen than to the authorities. Everywhere, I met concern at the failure of the little desert pigs to increase. Hundreds of sportsmen want the pigs adequately protected from poachers and predators. Poachers are a tremendous factor in the pig situation, most informed sportsmen wanted to know why javelina weren't trapped and replanted in new areas. The low desert mountains from Hackberry to Lake Mead in the Kingman area were mentioned repeatedly, as was all the mountain-desert country on both sides of the Highway 60/70 from Wickenburg to the Colorado river. The Black Canyon- New River-Bumblebee country was also mentioned. There must be dozens of other localities now barren of javelina that would take to replants with complete success.

Burro deer also were a hot topic. Why, I was asked repeatedly, should low country nimrods drive 350 miles to the pines for venison when top but barren habitat is all around them? Any south valley hunter who's ever hiked the saguaro-palo verde forests south of Phoenix and west of Tucson for scores of miles, puzzles at the lack of desert muleys.

Here is cover identical to Sonora deer thickets which abound with huge desert bucks. Mexico has them, we don't. Yet the habitats seem identical. Where's our deer? Scores of observant sportsmen say predators and poachers may be the answer, plus regular effort to assist desert deer in making a come-back. I can personally testify that in a two week trip thru this same country last spring I was impressed by three things: 1)the splendid cover but the absence of deer, 2)the evidence and sound of coyotes everywhere, 3)the fact that during a 900 mile trip in pig season, I carried a gun continuously, crossed numerous highways and hunted literally scores of mile of country, yet never once did a game ranger stop me. I was also told by other hunters that they too

had never seen ranger more than 50 feet off the paved road. This entire country is cut up with dozens of roads, trails and paths suitable for truck use. Poachers undoubtedly are having a field day for free in this area. Everywhere I found car tracks, signs of old camps, empty brass rifle cartridges and evidence of activity.

The North Kaibab was also mentioned, but elk, not the stockmen-forest Service deer problem, was the subject. If the unique limestone soil of this famed plateau which grows forage, which produces those enormous trophy antlers on the Kaibab bucks, could be made partial elk range, then what antler growth might be expected on bull elk? Surely a giant breed of elk should develop on the famous game preserve. And as the opposition, these sportsmen say, the kabob is a game preserve first and foremost. Let's make it completely that in actual fact. Nothing in writing limits the preserve exclusively to deer, although it's primarily been a deer range with cattle removed, making it 100% a game preserve, there'd be room for elk.

Dissenters smugly announce the Kaibab is not historic elk range. Neither is Houserock Valley nor Raymond Ranch classic buffalo country, but the big bovines have ignored this error for years and have done very well, thank you. They're even outgrowing their range, so certain opponents say. Similarly, elk should do wonders on the Kaibab.

And while we're trading for elk, why not toss in a herd of Rocky Mountain goats to tether on the higher peaks? Yep, we've got some daring and imaginative sportsmen in Arizona.

Well, let's get down to earth again. Plenty of Arizona newcomers grew up in the rabbit and squirrel country of the Midwest. For years, to them hunting meant only bunnies and bushy tails. Out here, they miss the regular weekend tramps for such abundant small game. Quail fail to qualify for this sport as do doves or pigeons. Many native hunters would also like to have rabbits to hunt after the big game season is over.

In small game state, rabbits and squirrels are big game and get merited attention from the authorities. As a result, the rabbit kill in states such as Missouri often hits up into the millions. Population cycles cause troubles, but a rabbit-squirrel

program in Arizona might provide sport for thousands of hunters.

Migratory waterfowl have also been discussed around the campfires loudly and repeatedly. The Mogollon Rim-Verde River flyway is an unknown quantity for numbers and species. Hunting is good or bad from year to year. Few know why. Here, an investigation might solve the problem as it might also along the upper Gila and Salt. Several strategically spotted rest or feeding preserves might also cause the flights to linger or attract more birds.

The vanishing Arizona bighorn is also a bone of contention. dozens of desert ramblers swear that poachers and golden eagles are the sole stinkers in the sheep situation. Given protection from this pressure, they say, sheep will increase. Other partisans are as violent in their belief that inbreeding, disease contracted from domestic sheep, and lack of water or range spell the bighorn's doom. Here's a splendid game animal languishing for lack of attention. Time and money spent on a sheep program should correct this sad condition, many sportsmen maintain.

The fishermen haven't been silent around the campfire either. The trout gripes are pretty generally known. Either you're a real trout fisherman who packs into Tonto, Clear Creek, Thunder River, the Little Colorado, or a dozen other really remote spots for a man's fishing trip, or you're a long tailed so-and-so of a fish truck chaser. There's no middle ground for trout fishermen,

apparently. You either take it silently the hard way, or use dog food and dough balls and yowl for bigger planting quotas in your own private puddle.

But the warm water fishermen have ideas and plans. There's miles of potential bass, blue gill, channel cat and perch water they'd like to fish successfully. They cite the miles of big canals in the Salt River Valley that should be producing tons of fish for city-bound anglers.

The tremendous Verde drainage, including the below-trout-water stretches of Sycamore Creek, Oak Creek, Wet and Dry Beaver, Clear Creek and the lower East Verde could be profitable waters for thousands of bass and pan fish anglers. They'd like to see a biologist working on these several midstate running waterways. They want the answers first, then the fish. The warm water license fees, they maintain, should go preponderantly to boost native inland waters and not be used for the Colorado, which is practically an international project, too far from home to satisfy the great mass of now-and-then fishermen.

These are a few of the projects the boys are discussing around the campfires. Admittedly, some are fantastic. Or, are they? Do we really know? Others need but the go ahead to make them start producing results. What are we going to do about these projects? Shall we drop them as "nitwit" or "crackpot schemes", or shall we urge action on them? It's up to us.

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Camp Cook

By Ryna Rock

Barbecue Beef/Biscuit Bake

- 3 lbs coarsely ground beef
- 1 c barbecue sauce
- 1 c ketchup
- 1/2 tsp onion powder
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1 c beef broth
- 2 c sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 (7.5 oz) pkg buttermilk biscuits

Heat a 12-inch dutch oven over 9 hot coals. Brown the ground beef. Pour off drippings and add barbecue sauce, ketchup, onion powder, garlic powder, and beef broth.

Cook 10 minutes, until steaming. Sprinkle cheese on top and arrange biscuits on top of the cheese. Cover with lid and place 15 hot coals on top. Cook, covered, for 20 minutes, or until biscuits are golden brown and cooked through.

Serves 8

Oven size	Number of briquettes	
	Top	Bottom
10-inch	10 to 12	8 to 10
12-inch	12 to 14	10 to 12
14-inch	14 to 16	12 to 14
16-inch	16 to 18	14 to 16



Campsite Lima Beans

- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 1 Tbsp butter
- 2 (1 lb) cans lima beans
- 1 small jar diced red pimento
- 1 c sour cream

Saute' onion in butter. When transparent, add lima beans and heat. When beans are hot, add pimento and sour cream and cook until heated through. Don't boil, or sour cream will curdle.

Easy Open Fire Cake Dessert

- 2 c flour
- 1/4 c sugar
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 egg
- 1/2 c water
- 3 apples, chopped very small/covered with sugar

Mix flour, sugar, cinnamon, and baking powder together. Add egg and water. Place mixture in hand-greased Dutch oven. Add apples over top. Cover and place to side of coals. Keep turning slowly to bake evenly. Great dessert.

WHADDA' YA' KNOW

(answers on page 22)

1. What is a group of Coyote's called?
2. How fast can a coyote run?
3. How long does a coyote live?
4. What does a coyote eat?
5. How much does a coyote weigh?



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Sondra Bengtson	Chandler	Joette Quigley	Scottsdale
Joan Bennett	Surprise	Stacy Rogers	Scottsdale
Roberta Bierman	Gilbert	Shanel Scott	Goodyear
Karen Bowers	Chandler	Christine Sharp	Quemado
Kathleen Boyer	Scottsdale	Lauren Skinner	Phoenix
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Amy Bruno	Rimrock	Leslie Smith	Tucson
Jennifer Danley	Glendale	Janice Tucker	Mesa
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Keli Dungan	Rillito	John Vice	Gilbert
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Roxane Gahagan	Chandler		
Mark Healy	Tempe		
JD Henney	Cave Creek		
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WHADDA' YA' KNOW

(questions on page 21)

1. Pack
2. As fast as 40 mph
3. A coyote in the wild can live 10-14 years. One in captivity can live as many as 20 years
4. A coyote will generally eat whatever is available. Fruits & vegetables, pet food, small wild & domestic animals, snakes & lizards and garbage.
5. The average weight is 20-35 lbs. The female generally weighs less than the male.

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