

Arizona Wildlife News



Summer 2020

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Issue 2



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



The Arizona Wildlife Federation had another busy year giving wildlife a voice in our state and nation's capital and working with our land management agencies to ensure that wildlife and its habitats will be here for future generations. Conservation of Arizona's wildlife is non-partisan. Last year, with your help, the AWF led the charge to protect wildlife habitats on Arizona's public lands. We brought voice to the concerns about the State's efforts to take these lands out of public ownership. We led the way to prevent uranium mines near the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon. We fought to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, one of America's greatest conservation laws. We continued to lead efforts to ensure that new land management plans for Arizona's public lands protect and increase our state's wildlife populations. We worked on issues involving the Mexican gray wolf, desert bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and wild horses and burros.

With the start of a new year Arizona's legislature is back in action. As has become customary there are a few bills that have already been introduced that would have negative impacts on public lands and wildlife habitat. Rep. Mark Finchem (who has been a part of multiple bad public lands bills in the past) and Sen. Sonny Borrelli have developed legislation (HB2092/S1046) based on numerous errors and biases. Their lack of understanding of the value of public lands to Arizona's citizens coupled with an unconstitutional infringement on the rights of private land owners to make their own decisions makes H2902/S1046 particularly egregious.

These two politicians have introduced identical pieces of legislation that would prohibit the sale, gifting, or granting of land to the federal government – their weak logic is that there is not enough private land in Arizona, the federal government already owns too much land in the state, and that any further federal control would deprive the state of tax dollars. Here is where they're both wrong.

The shortage of public lands in Arizona is a myth that continues to be popular with some of our politicians. They continually fail to mention that the State Land department manages 9.2 million acres of land. At Statehood, Arizona was granted 10.9 million acres of land for the sole purpose of generating revenue primarily for the state's education program. The primary method of generating revenue is to sell lands to the highest bidder. When land is needed for development or to increase the tax base these 9.2 million acres will accommodate that need for many years. Federal lands make the state, local businesses, and average citizens billions of dollars every year. The outdoor recreation industry generates over \$21 billion in consumer spending, employs over 200,000 Arizonans (generating nearly \$6 billion in wages), and contributes nearly \$1.5 billion in state and local taxes. Ignoring this massive contribution to our economy is deceptive and irresponsible.

A basic right we have in America is to purchase, use, and sell our private property. This Bill treats landowners like children, asking the Government for permission on what they can and can't do with their private property. Governor Ducey, in his 2020 State of the State speech, said "in Arizona, we believe in maximizing freedom and limiting government. We believe government should do fewer things but do the things it does well. Let's continue hacking away at the permanent bureaucracy and the "mother may I" state. The people don't need the government's permission -- the government needs the people's permission." Rep's Finchem and Borrelli clearly weren't listening to the Governor or to the citizens of Arizona. This legislation is bad for Arizona. Please contact your state representative and let him/her know that you don't support HB2902 / S1046 and that you are tired of this annual barrage of anti-public lands Bills.

In the good news department, the Arizona Wildlife Federation is continuing to grow. Scott Garlid, AWF's Conservation Director, was selected by the Board of Directors to be the organization's Executive Director. Scott provided excellent leadership as the AWF's Conservation Director. He has a track record of strong conservation leadership and success in managing organizations. The board is pleased to have chosen an outstanding leader to guide the organization. The AWF will continue to focus on conserving Arizona's wildlife and its wild places, Scott's experience will be a great fit for our organization as we continue to grow.

"I'm honored for the opportunity to lead this exceptional organization of dedicated and talented professionals," said Garlid. Leading a top conservation organization into the future is a terrific opportunity and I look forward to building on AWF's tradition of excellent conservation work in our state." Starting with the next issue of AWF's Arizona Wildlife News, Scott will be taking over this column with the new "Message from the Executive Director."

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

Brad Powell
President Arizona Wildlife Federation

AWF Regional Roundup

Arizona Wildlife Federation divides the state into regions in the same manner as the Arizona Game and Fish Department. This map depicts each of those regions and the members of our Board of Directors who serve as directors for each area. Our Regional Directors are busy! In this column, we present a few of last season's activity highlights from each region.



Bob Vahle
Region 1 Director



John Hamill
Region 2 Director



Loyd Barnet
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

National Wildlife Federation (NWF) 84th Annual Meeting (6/6-9/20)

Due to the COVID 19 health issue, the NWF conducted its first "virtual" annual meeting through the use of the "Zoom" application program over the internet. The AWF President and Region I Director as the NWF Representative participated in this year's meeting. A primary function of the annual meeting is to review, discuss, and potentially approve resolutions and their recommendations that address natural resource conservation issues (i.e., issues of local, state, federal, or worldwide concern) that are submitted by the Affiliates of the NWF from across all 50 states of the U.S. Resolutions that are voted on and approved by the NWF Affiliates at the annual meeting through this "grassroots" process become the foundation of NWF's natural resource conservation policies. A secondary function of the annual meeting is to vote on and approve candidates nominated by NWF Affiliates for filling various NWF Board and Representative Positions. This year a total of 10 resolutions were submitted by NWF Affiliates. The text of each resolution and the NWF guidelines and process of evaluating each resolution through the use of 4 topic committees is described in the 2020 NWF Proposed Resolutions Handbook that was provided to the AWF Board on May 30, 2020. All ten resolutions, some with minor amendments, were passed by the NWF Affiliates through an online voting process. The resolutions adopted addressed the following conservation issues: 1. Acting on Climate Change; 2) North American Grasslands; 3) Protect the Tongass National Forest; 4) Restoring Marine Fish and Wildlife Populations; 5) Supporting the Formation of a Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission; 6) Protect Downstream Communities from British Columbia Mining Impacts on Trans-boundary Watersheds; 7) PFAs Impacts on Fish and Wildlife; 8) Reducing Wildlife Mortality and Habitat Fragmentation Caused by Highways and Roads; 9) Opposing Federal Efforts to Weaken the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918; and 10) Control and Eradication of Invasive Predators on Islands.

Travel Management

In August 2019 a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIS) for the Public Motorized Travel Management Plan on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF) was published and made available for public review and comment through October 29, 2019. The RDEIS carried forward the same 4 key issues (i.e., 1. Restricting motorized vehicle access for dispersed camping; 2. Restricting motorized vehicle big game retrieval; 3. The impacts of unregulated off road motorized vehicle use to forest resources including terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species and their habitats, soils, water, and cultural resources; and 4. Economics: loss of revenues and jobs) and their analysis that were identified in the 2010 DEIS. The AWF reviewed the RDEIS and provided comments to the ASNF on October 28, 2019. To date, the ASNF has not prepared a Final Environment Impact Statement (EIS) or Draft Record of Decision on this critical forest management issue. Consequently, as the explosion in sales and significant increased use of Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) on the ASNF continues it is not difficult to find increasing examples of misuse and damage to natural resources such as wet meadows, springs, and other key wildlife habitats. (See Figure 1.- Attached). The ASNF is the only National Forest in the U. S. Forest Service system that has not completed and implemented a formal travel management plan.



Impacts to spring and wet meadow habitat on the ASNF by OHV use in the spring of 2020.

Heber Wild Horse Territory (HWHT) – Management Plan

A summary and background information on the establishment of the HWHT (1974) on the Black Mesa Ranger District of the ASNF including the history of the 26 year period it has taken the ASNF to initiate the development of a management plan and AWF involvement was provided to the AWF Board in the Region I Director's Report for October-December 2019. On February 14, 2020 AWF received a copy of the ASNF – “Proposed Action for the Heber Wild Horse Territory Management plan”. The AWF reviewed the Proposed Action for the Heber Wild Horse Territory Management Plan and provided formal comments to the ASNF on March 12, 2020.

Currently the AWF is awaiting action by the ASNF to complete the following procedural steps in the environmental analysis process in order to finally complete and hopefully implement a management plan for the HWHT. Until then, the feral “wild” horse population continues to significantly increase across the Black Mesa Ranger District and many other areas of the ASNF.

1. The ASNF must prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations.
2. Once the EA is prepared, the ASNF is required to make the EA available for public review and allow another comment period which the AWF will pursue as a high priority conservation issue.
3. The ASNF should incorporate any needed changes identified during the Proposed Action comment period and prepare a draft Decision Notice (DN) based on the analysis. The DN and EA will be made available to those who commented during the Proposed Action comment period. This will initiate the objection period.
4. After the objection period has ended, a Final Decision Notice will be issued.
5. Once the Final Decision Notice is completed, a management plan will be developed for the HWHT.

Region 1 Director’s Report Contd.

Four Forests Restoration Initiative (4FRI)

An update regarding recent activities related to the overall landscape level 4FRI forest health restoration project which affects both AWF Region 1 and 2 is covered in the AWF – Region 2 Director’s report for this reporting period.

Locally in the Show Low and Pinetop-Lakeside area of Region I there are a number of large scale 4FRI forest restoration treatments ongoing both within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) which is targeted to significantly reduce fire risk and areas outside of the WUI which are targeted to mimic natural variability and diversity in forest habitat conditions. The Region I Director is currently visiting and evaluating treatments outside of the WUIs in these areas to determine whether the 4 FRI objectives of restoring a natural range of variability in forest stand conditions and a diverse range of habitat conditions for dependent wildlife are being met. The 4FRI objectives include managing forest stands as predominantly un-even age with a wide variation in tree age, size, and tree spacing distribution (i.e., open spacing and grouped spacing) to mimic historic forest stand conditions. In addition, a key objective of the 4FRI project is to restore forest health conditions needed to support low intensity ground fires which historically created varying mosaics of both small openings (e.g., < 2 acres) and forest stands of varying size (e.g., < 100 acres). Currently, on the ground inspection of many of the forest thinning treatments outside of the WUI (See – Figure 2 and Figure 3 – attached) are now revealing that many of the forested treatment blocks are becoming homogeneous and uniform in appearance and structure (e.g., tree spacing, openness) and merging together as the 4FRI project foot print increases in size over the landscape. As a result, this is creating very large contiguous areas (e.g., > 100 acres) with very low structural diversity (e.g., variation in tree spacing, tree grouping, tree size, and tree age). Consequently, there is concern that habitat diversity and key habitat components (e.g., nesting sites; hiding and thermal cover) for many dependent wildlife species (e.g., Abert’s squirrel, cavity nesting birds, elk/deer) is being reduced in this area and potentially on a large scale. It is recommended that some field visits by the AWF Regional Directors and other AWF Board Members of 4FRI treatments be conducted in other areas in AWF Region 1, 2, and 6 to determine whether the application of these low diversity treatments are occurring over large contiguous areas outside of WUI areas and if this is either unique to this 4 FRI project area or common across other 4FRI project areas.



A 4FRI forest thinning treatment outside of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) on the ASNF in the spring of 2020.

Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Program

On June 11, 2020 the AWF provided formal comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) regarding their docket scoping proposal of April 14, 2020 Docket No. FWS-R2-ES-2020-001 “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants” Revision to the Non-Essential Population of Mexican Wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*): Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The USFWS solicited input from the public in order to begin preparing a supplemental EIS on its 2015 revision to the nonessential experimental population of the Mexican wolf. The scoping process gives the public an opportunity to provide input on the range of issues that will be addressed in the supplemental EIS.

Region 2 Director's Report

By John Hammill, Regional Director

Covid 19 Impacts

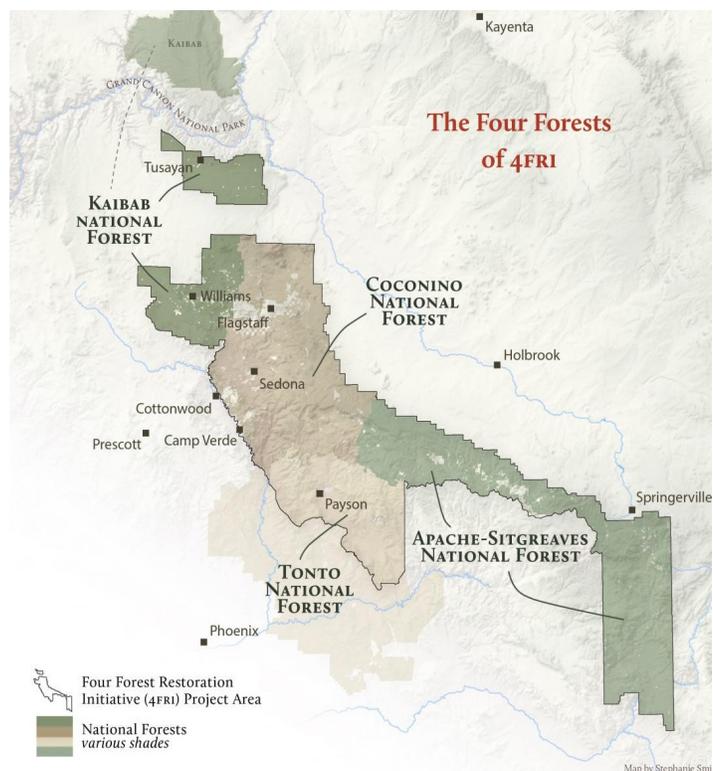
The Covid 19 pandemic has had a significant effect on conservation activities and outdoor recreation in Region 2. Concerns over the safety of staff and visitors resulted in the closure of Grand Canyon National Park and Forest Service campgrounds for much of March and April and May. While many campgrounds and facilities were closed, recreational use (including fishing) on public lands has skyrocketed by people seeking the solitude and safety of outdoor recreation. Hopefully, this increase in public use will result in a lasting appreciation of the value of public lands and increased support for public lands management and protection. Many conservation activities have also been altered or postponed due to the corona virus. For example, a public lands day habitat and fencing project that AWF was planning at Lake Mary in April was cancelled. Habitat restoration and major fund-raising events by several AWF affiliates (e.g. the AZ Antelope Foundation and the AZ Elk Society) had to be cancelled or postponed. Many of these projects are being rescheduled now that stay at home restrictions have been lifted. Much of the work of AWF staff and Board members involves participating in meetings with agencies, legislators, and cooperators. Almost all face-to-face meetings have been cancelled for the past several months. While many of the meetings continued using Zoom and other forms of internet communication, social distancing requirements and restriction on public gathering has made communication and collaboration more difficult and challenging.

Uranium Mining Moratorium

AWF and its cooperators, the Grand Canyon Trust and Trout Unlimited, have spent years working to ban uranium mining from public lands around the Grand Canyon. The value of these lands for wildlife and the outstanding opportunities they afford for hunting and other types of outdoor recreation is widely recognized. The Grand Canyon watershed now faces a new threat from uranium mining after the Nuclear Fuels working group recommended revisiting the temporary ban on new mines in the area, and proposed a new domestic uranium reserve which would increase the pressure to mine the region. AWF efforts are focused on promoting passage of the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act which would put a permanent moratorium on new uranium mining claims on just over 1 million acres of federally managed public lands to the north and south of Grand Canyon National Park. The bill which was sponsored by Arizona Congressman Raul Grijalva passed the House of Representatives last fall. Arizona Senator Krysten Sinema introduced a similar bill in the Senate last December but the legislation has stalled. Senator McSally has yet to support the bill.

Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI)

AWF continues to be an active participant and contributor to the Four Forest Restoration Initiative or 4FRI. The 4FRI is working to reestablish healthy, resilient forests in northern Arizona that support natural fire regimes and pose decreased risk of uncharacteristically severe wildfire and foster quality habitat to support healthy populations of native plants and animals. Since 2010, only 135,000 acres have been treated by mechanical thinning, far less than the 800,000-acre goal established for the 4FRI effort.



Region 2 Director's Report Contd.

The Forest Service's new Request for Proposals (RFP) to mechanically thin 605,000 acres over the next 20 years closed in April 2020. The Forest Service's hope is that this RFP will significantly increase the scale and pace of restoration efforts. This major difference between this and previous RFP's is the longer (20 year) term of the new contracts. Several existing 4FRI contractors have indicated that future industry investments in the mechanical thinning effort will depend on the timely issuance of new long-term contracts. Results of the RFP process are expected to be available in the next few months. In other 4FRI news, the Forest Service in cooperation with the 4FRI stakeholder work group is reviewing and addressing comments that were provided on the 4FRI Rim Country Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The Rim Country Project spans an additional 1.24 million acres in portions of the Coconino, Tonto, and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. The Proposed Action identified in the DEIS would mechanically treat approximately 890,000 acres of vegetation and treat approximately 950,000 acres with fire. The DEIS also call for restoration of streams and aquatic resources such as springs, wetlands, and riparian habitat across the planning area. The Forest Service expects to issue the Final EIS in October 2020. AWF submitted comments on the DEIS last January.

Region 3 Director's Report

By Loyde Barnett, Regional Director

Burros

As described in the March report, on March 2 the Kingman and Lake Havasu Field Offices of the BLM jointly issued an environmental assessment (EA) analyzing a proposed wild burro gather and use of fertility controls in and near the Black Mountain Herd Management Area. The Black Mountains contain the largest contiguous area of desert bighorn sheep habitat. The objective is to achieve and maintain the target Appropriate Management Level (AML) over the next 10 years. The proposal includes an initial gather and removal of 1000 burros, followed by a re-inventory and continued removal until the AML of approximately 478 is achieved. To maintain the level, a combination of fertility controls (approved vaccines) and maintenance gathers would be employed. The AWF submitted a letter supporting the proposal and urging the BLM to begin implementation as soon as practical. The 30-day public comment period ended April 1. The BLM is currently reviewing the responses as a part of the process of EA preparation. Controversial issues such as this frequently result in very large numbers of responses, and a great deal of agency staff time is required to analyze and consider them in the analysis process.



Verde River

An initial proposal for construction of two fish barriers in the Upper Verde River was recently presented by the Bureau of Reclamation, along with the Arizona Game & Fish Department, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service. The lower barrier would be placed just above the confluence of Sycamore Creek, and the upper one just above the confluence with Hell Canyon. The purpose is to facilitate management of the upper Verde for native fish. Restoring the native fishery in this section of river has the potential to increase existing populations of native fish and re-establish populations of endangered fish. Historically, this section of the Verde River was home to many native fish species including spokedace, loach minnow, razorback sucker, roundtail chub, desert sucker, Sonora sucker, speckled dace, and longfin dace. Today, this section of the river is dominated by non-native fish and the spokedace, loach minnow, and razorback sucker are no longer present. The roundtail chub, locally called “Verde trout”, is managed as a sport fish and would be the featured angling in the upper river. As mitigation for impacts of the canals of the Central Arizona Project, the Bureau of Reclamation has a requirement to install 12 fish barriers. Most have already been constructed, with one in Fossil Creek and a more recent one in Spring Creek above its confluence with Oak Creek. The proposal is still in the informational stage and has not entered scoping under NEPA. Recently two informational zoom meetings were held to explain the proposal and provide the opportunity for questions and concerns. I represented AWF in the meetings.

Region 4 Director’s Report

By Pat Headington, Regional Director

Regional Events

YVRGC: As a result of ongoing restrictions related to COVID-19, all regional events have been postponed including the Youth Fishing Clinic. Monthly club meetings have also been canceled through June.

Fall Activities: Planning is underway for upcoming activities including the Dove Hunters Barbeque, Youth Dove Hunt, Wounded Warriors Dove Hunt, rescheduled Youth Fishing Clinic and Youth Small Game Camp.

Land and Travel Management

Draft Hunt Plan Review: Draft hunt plans were reviewed and comment letters submitted for Cabeza Prieta, Cibola, Buenos Aries and Leslie Canyon National Wildlife Refuges. These refuges proposed to expand hunting opportunities bringing them into closer alignment with AZGFD guidelines. Comment letters supported the expansion of these opportunities and commend refuge staff for their recommendations.

Kofa National Wildlife Refuge: KNWR staff continue to research options to permanently address access issues created by a private land owner on the refuge. The land owner temporarily blocked roads to other private holdings used by KNWR staff. Public access has not been affected.

KNWR staff reported vandalism and theft at one of the mine locations in GMU 45C in April resulting in extensive damage to gates, the loss of ore carts and other artifacts from the mine.

Region 4 Director's Report Contd.

International Border Construction on Cabeza Prieta: Upon invitation of a local Customs & Border Protection Agent, 5 members of YVRGC drove along the southern border and into the Cabeza Prieta NWR to view the border fence being constructed. Members attending included previous AZGF Commissioners Jim Ammons and Joe Melton. Items of discussion included travel along the international border on roads built for the construction of the fence and whether these roads would be available to the public once the fence is completed. Other existing roads currently on the refuge used for administrative (legal) purposes could also be reviewed and possibly used for public access. Once complete, the border fence will eliminate movement of large animals across the international border.

AZGFD Region 4

Water for Wildlife: Water catchments in Region 4 are in good shape headed into summer, some water hauling has occurred to smaller or temporary water sources and are expected to continue through the summer.

Hat Mountain Tank: A new tank was constructed south of Gila Bend to provide an additional water source for Sonoran Pronghorn, Mule Deer and other critters. This tank consisted of 49 sections of 20-inch diameter pipe and guzzler creating the largest underground pipe system constructed to date. YVRGC volunteers worked for 2½ days to install the guzzler and pipe system.

Tank 726 Reconstruction: Tank 726 originally constructed in 1968 is located in the Eagletails Wilderness area. The reconstruction effort began to remove the existing above ground tanks, install new above ground tanks in an enclosed structure and new guzzler. This project was completed in association with Arizona Desert Big Horn Sheep Society volunteers. The enclosure was pre-assembled at the Region 4 office and transported to the site. Five 2500-gallon tanks were installed in the enclosure, upper collection area cleared of debris and new piping installed to supply the tanks.

Sonoran Pronghorn: In late April, Region 4 staff located a deceased Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope in GMU 41. The buck was wearing a tracking collar aiding in locating the buck. The circumstances of the buck's death are suspicious in nature.

Mexican Wolf: YVRGC submitted a response letter for the proposed revisions to the nonessential population under the 10(j) rule. We supported the position and comments provided by AZGFD. (See Hunt Plan response letters for Cabeza Prieta, Cibola, Buenos Aries and Leslie Canyon NWR, Mexican Wolf 10(j) Refer to PDF: final 10j Mexican wolf comment)



Region 5 Director's Report

By Duane Aubuchon, Regional Director

Summer 2020

Conserving Wildlife and Habitat

Rosemont Mine Update

In 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) designated 764,207 acres in southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona as critical habitat essential for jaguar conservation. That decision was challenged by the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau, New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association and New Mexico Federal Lands Council, who argued that the designation would affect their grazing permits, as well as construction of stock ponds and fencing. Their lawsuit focused on approximately 10,000 acres in New Mexico's Peloncillo and San Luis mountains. The trial court sided with the agency, ruling in 2017 that the designation was within the Service's authority.

Now a federal appeals court has ruled that the Service's designation of critical habitat for the jaguar was invalid, finding that the agency acted inappropriately in its 2014 critical habitat designation. The court ruled that the Service did not follow its internal policy at the time. That policy was only to designate unoccupied critical habitat when a designation limited to its present range would be inadequate to ensure conservation of the species. According to the judge, the agency did not follow its own regulations or provide a rational explanation for failing to do so.

Rosemont Copper Company has appealed the ruling that overturned the Service's approval of the open-pit copper mine in the Santa Rita Mountains. Rosemont Copper filed the notice of appeal to the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals after the federal judge in Tucson found that the Service violated the Endangered Species Act by approving the project expected to impact thousands of acres of land within critical habitat officially designated for the jaguar.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Proposed Critical Habitat for Garter Snakes

Staying on the issue of critical habitat, the Service re-issued proposed critical habitat designations for the northern Mexican garter snake and the narrow-headed garter snake. Both species, which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), are found in New Mexico and Arizona. The Service first made a critical habitat proposal in 2013, but it was never finalized. The new proposal reduces designated critical habitat for both species compared to the 2013 proposal — a 93% reduction (421,423 acres to 27,784 acres) for the northern Mexican garter snake and a 91% reduction (210,189 acres to 18,701 acres) for the narrow-headed garter snake. The Service states that the reasons for this decrease include disagreement on the criteria used to define occupied habitat at the time of listing, and new information on the lateral extent of habitat use the garter snakes occupy from surface water. The Service will accept comments on the proposed rule until June 29, 2020.

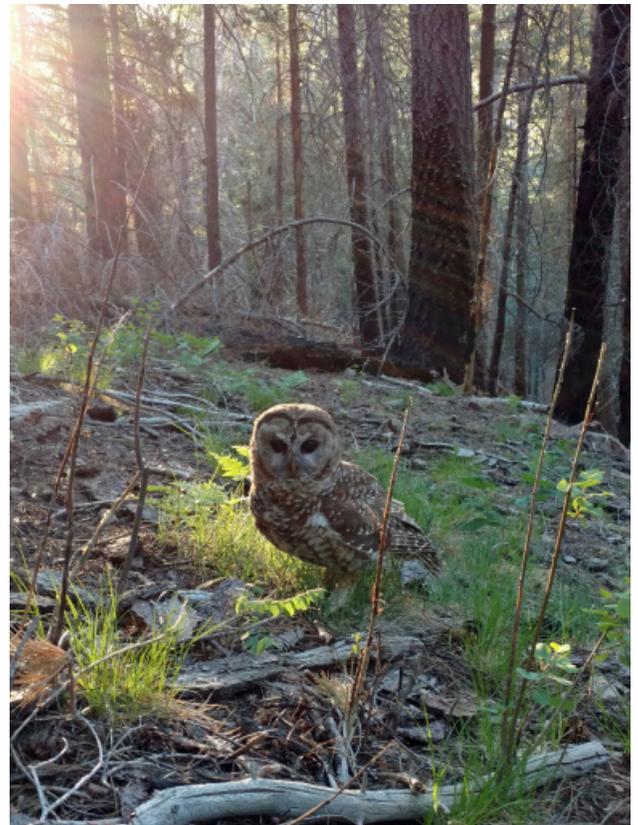
Region 6 Director's Report

By Amanda Moore, Regional Director

I am a self-employed wildlife biologist who does contract work for a variety of agencies. Spring and Summer are the busy field season times for me. This summer I am conducting Mexican Spotted Owl surveys on Mt. Graham, as well as on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in several areas around Forest Lakes, AZ. Fieldwork has its ups and downs. One downside this year was having the bearings go bad on our truck and having to get towed home to Globe from the Mogollon rim above Payson. Due to Covid-19 and having our dogs with us, they didn't want us riding in the cab of the tow truck, so we ended up riding in our truck on the back of the flatbed tow truck for several hours before getting home after midnight. But the upside of the field season this year is that most of the spotted owls that we are monitoring are nesting. In some years the majority of the population won't nest at all and in other years almost all spotted owls will nest. Finding pairs of these secretive owls is always easier and more rewarding when you locate a nest and young. I look forward to going back and finding more young in June as that's the time they start leaving the nest.

AWF's New Treasurer

I was recently elected to be Treasurer of the AZ Wildlife Federation, replacing Jerry Thorson who served in this position for about 25 years! Thank you to Jerry for your tremendous service in this capacity! I have big shoes to fill, as he has been phenomenal as treasurer. Fortunately, he is continuing on as a board member and assisting me with this transition. I have long had passion for financial management and look forward to this new assignment. However, the time commitment so far has been extensive as we are in the middle of converting from entering data by hand into a spreadsheet to having an almost fully automated online system through QuickBooks. I have been spending a lot of time each week reviewing all our accounts, income and expenditures to make sure everything is converted and entered properly. The work is somewhat tedious, but worth it. I am also working with our Executive Director, Scott Garlid, to come up with exactly how we want to track everything in QuickBooks. AWF has been very successful at getting grants over the years and it is very important to be tracking all our income and expenditures precisely so that we can report to our funders what we accomplished with their money and spent. AWF's finances have gotten more complicated over the last several years due to adding full-time staff, brokerage investments, and receiving numerous grants to fund conservation work. We have also worked with a contractor to create a new website that allows online payment and registration for our many Becoming an Outdoorswoman events. I think we are almost complete in our conversion over to QuickBooks and this should make everything easier in the long run. I look forward to helping keep AWF on sound financial footing for many years to come. Thank you to our many members who donate generously to keep this great organization working for AZ wildlife!



Trophy Book (now known as Records of Arizona Big Game)

For about the last 15 years, I have served on AWF's Trophy Book Committee, which is now known as the Arizona Record Book Committee. The Arizona Wildlife Federation has a proud history of maintaining a record book to track animals harvested that meet a minimum score. We recently held a committee meeting and discussed whether there needed to be a change in our record book and committee names. This discussion came about due to a cultural shift in our country where the word "trophy" is often associated with a negative connotation. Arizona Game and Fish Department has recently spent a lot of time going through its programs and publication to reduce or eliminate use of the word trophy. We feel it's important to acknowledge the reality of how some people perceive the word "trophy" in relation to hunting. So, we have moved now to what is perhaps a more accurate title for our record book, Records of Arizona Big Game. We patterned the wording after how Boone and Crockett titles their record books, Records of North American Big Game. And accordingly, our committee will be named the Arizona Record Book Committee. AWF's Arizona Record Book Committee has been working to complete the next edition of our record book. Every five years AWF publishes its record book, which records the scores of animals taken by hunters throughout Arizona. Hunters apply for acceptance into the record book and we have a banquet each year honoring those with the largest animals harvested in that year. This upcoming record book will be the third edition that I have had the privilege to help complete. We are in the process of writing and gathering articles of interest, including exciting hunt stories as well as memorial articles to honor those important to the hunting community who have passed since the last record book was published. The book will also have a Foreward by Buck Buckner, who is the last surviving member of the very first Record Book Committee. He will write an article that covers the history of all the record books since the AWF began publishing it back in 1970. The Arizona Record Book is the oldest state record book program of any state in our nation. Currently we are expecting to complete the next edition of the record book in the Fall of 2020, so keep your eye out as this will make a great Christmas gift for the hunters in your life for Christmas 2020!

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman

This last quarter I have also been working in my role as Chairwoman of the Becoming an Outdoors-woman committee to provide ladies with a new workshop opportunity! Kathy Greene has been leading the effort to create our first ever Mini BOW. Many of you know that Covid-19 led AWF to do something we have never done before...cancel a BOW event! Our April BOW event was cancelled due to the large number of participants expected at the event, generally about 100 attendees plus all our instructors. Even prior to Covid-19, our BOW committee had been tossing around the idea of a new workshop to be conducted in Northern Arizona. And with the cancelling of our April event and thinking that crowd size would be a factor for future events, we decided to put more effort into creating a mini-BOW workshop. This event is scheduled to be held August 8 at the Nordic Village in Flagstaff. It is essentially a one-day workshop where ladies get to choose two classes from a list of six offerings. We will have Bowhunting 101, Arizona Wildlife Identification, Backpacking 101 and 102, Wilderness Survival Skills, and Arizona Wildflower Identification. These will be in-depth, hands-on classes lasting 3 hours each. Attendees select one class for the morning session and one for the afternoon. Those that select Backpacking 102 will get to hike out to one of the remote areas at the Nordic Village and practice their backpack camping skills. So for that class, the workshop is actually a two-day event since they will be doing an overnight in the backcountry. As a way to reduce the risk of exposure to Coronavirus, we are limiting the workshop to 30 people overall and limiting each class to 10 students. In addition, we will be following all recommendations from the CDC as much as possible in this type of setting. This means social distancing during classes and lunch time, wearing facemasks when we can't stay 6 feet apart, and providing wash stations and encouraging frequent hand washing. We are so looking forward to providing Arizona woman with a new BOW workshop experience. And, depending on how this workshop is received, we likely will provide more mini-BOW's for Arizona women throughout the state.

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.

Hunts That Get Me Through

By Lew Carpenter



While most of us have been more tuned in to big game hunting applications this past spring, the recent stay-at-home order gave me a chance to organize some gear, too.

Picking my way through a year of fishing and hunting gear, my thoughts swirled around two key activities: 1) Keeping the teckel tracker trained up and active for next fall, and; 2) Upland hunting – specifically quail in Arizona and New Mexico.

It's easy to understand, as my last hunt before COVID-19 was an Arizona quail hunt south of Globe in a lush band of perfect habitat peppered with hundred-year-old Saguaro forests, stomping javelina and full-moon, box canyon, fire-grilled quail for the reward.

I think we all have hunting and fishing experiences that feed an aching passion and drive us onward to the next season.

I've also found another activity during down times that fuel my passion for the sport – conservation advocacy. And, I know, there's an overwhelming stream of online advocacy clawing its way through your social media channels, e-mail boxes and digital forums. Making sense of it all can be daunting.

I like to keep it simple and, if you haven't visited the Arizona Wildlife Federation's website recently, I'm certain you will be pleased. Most of the big issues affecting hunters and anglers nationwide can be found at www.azwildlife.org - and ways to easily become engaged. From public lands issues, to conservation funding, recreation infrastructure, the Grand Canyon and more. It's a great website and a noble place to further your engagement in things that matter to sportsmen.

But back to the quail.....

The fall won't come quick enough for me. And relishing in that last AZ quail hunt keeps me going. How could it not? I brought three friends from Michigan, Minnesota and Georgia for their first desert hunt. We didn't have any hunting dogs with us, just keen eyes and quick triggers.

The hundreds of small washes weaving through thick brush were loaded with quail tracks, and the low expectations of the crew elevated as we saw first a pack of javelina and then a running bevy of Gambel's quail.

It took us a while to develop a strategy for pinching in on these small groups of quail. And, chasing singles and doubles as they ran beneath and through brush so wicked I'm surprised we didn't leave a spiked eyeball in that harsh environment.



“Quick and accurate shooting got us what we needed for dinner”



Quick and accurate shooting got us what we needed for dinner, and before dusk – in a classic box canyon – we spatchcocked the quail, rubbed them in oil and spices, dropped them on the fire and watched the sun set and the moon rise (so bright we didn't need the flashlights). It was a delicious and epic end to the one-day hunt.

So, I sit here, planning the next hunts this fall, winter and spring – securing the time and hoping travel will be less complicated that it is today.

The Santa Rita Experimental Range

A brief history of livestock and wildlife study in a semiarid ecosystem

By: Brett Blum



When considering the contributions of the Santa Rita Experimental Range (SRER) to our understanding of wildlife conservation it is important to take a broader ecological perspective. The experimental rangeland is one of over 1,200 active biological field stations around the world that together represent of all earth's biomes. For centuries these outposts have served as a foundation for a wide array of biological research. This global representation provides a critical infrastructure needed to examine long-term ecological trends that, in turn, inform our understanding and implementation of conservation practices in increasingly dynamic ecosystems. The value of these long-term ecological perspectives cannot be overstated. As drivers of research these field stations provide a platform to study mechanisms of ecological change as well as a detailed examination of all the components and interactions that make a given ecosystem unique. A single study is significant but it is the compilation of continued research that ultimately shapes our broader scientific understanding.

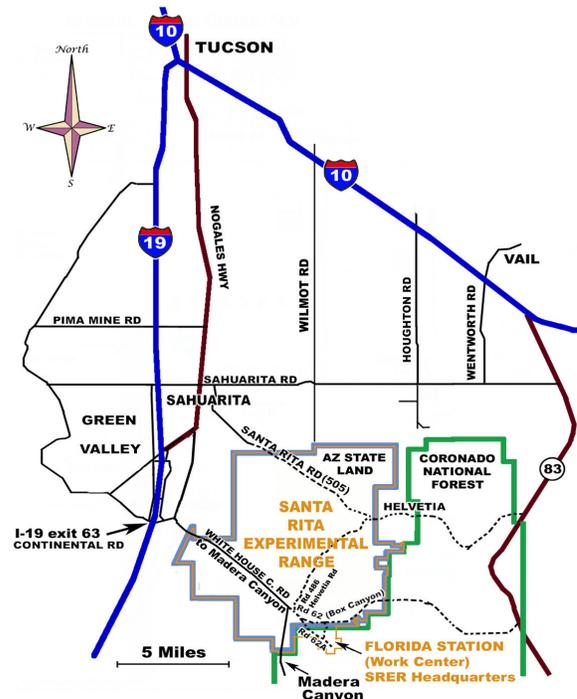
The SRER serves as a prominent example of the role biological field stations play in ecological study, education and outreach here in the Southwest. Located south of Tucson this research facility is comprised of roughly 52,000 acres of Sonoran upland, mesquite savannah and oak woodland in the shadow of the Santa Rita Mountains. The SRER is the oldest experimental rangeland in North America and is among the top five oldest biological field stations in the United States. Originally founded to examine ecological interactions of livestock grazing and rangeland studies this experimental rangeland now serves as a broad scale open air laboratory managed by the University of Arizona, Arizona Experiment Station.

The legacy of the SRER is rooted in the Conservation Movement of the early 1900's. The waning decades of the 1800's saw an exponential growth of Arizona's cattle population. Tax assessments of cattle numbers in Arizona in 1891 estimate roughly 900,000 head state wide with 377,474 head concentrated across Pima, Cochise, Santa Cruz and Graham counties. For comparison, the human population of the Arizona territory in 1890 was listed as 88,243 according to the US Department of Commerce. The elevated density of cattle combined with a multi-year drought from 1890-1893 resulted in the die off of between 50-75% of the cattle across Pima and Pinal counties alone by late summer 1893. This event was a turning point in livestock management.

The open space of the West was no longer to be viewed as an inexhaustible commodity but rather a finite resource in need of balance and further understanding. This change in perspective would ultimately have wide ranging implications for wildlife and habitat management.

Robert Humphrey Forbes moved to Tucson in 1894 as a young professor and chemist for the Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station [Arizona Experiment Station today] at the University of Arizona. Forbes was influenced by what he saw in the years following the drought of 1890-1893 and began to take note of changes in landscape function he attributed to high density grazing practices. In 1901 Forbes stated "The ruinous methods which seem inevitable upon a public range, which, being everybody's property, is nobody's care...." This acknowledgement, born from the tragedy of the commons, set in motion a desire to better understand the mechanisms and economics of grazing practices across the American West.

Around this time Gifford Pinchot, the pioneer of the United States Forest Service, was making progress in the conservation of America's timber harvest. Much like Forbes, Pinchot acknowledged the finite capacity of America's forests to meet growing demand for timber during the ongoing development of the West. As head of the Division of Forestry (the precursor to the US Forest Service) Pinchot advocated for the continued establishment and study of forest reserves to promote "planned use and renewal" under the Forest Reserve Act of 1891.



Robert Forbes met Gifford Pinchot at the annual meeting of the American Forestry Association in Denver, Colorado 1901. It was there Forbes persuaded Pinchot of the need for a large-scale reserve “for a proper economic and scientific study of the problems involved in unrestrained, open range grazing.” Together Forbes and Pinchot presented their idea of an experimental range reserve to Theodore Roosevelt who had only recently ascended to the Presidency following the assassination of William McKinley. On April 11, 1902 President Roosevelt issued Proclamations 467 and 468

establishing the San Isabel Forest Reserve of Colorado and the Santa Rita Forest Reserve (Santa Rita Experimental Range today) of Arizona. These were to be the very first of the public lands designated and reserved under the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt. Though the Santa Rita Forest Reserve was designated as such J. J. Thornber, a botanist and contemporary of Forbes at the U of A, states: “its [SRER] purpose was expressly understood to be the study of grazing range problems with a view, if possible, to a demonstration on a large and convincing plan, of range restoration and control.”



True to its designation the early years of the Santa Rita Forest Reserve were spent examining practices regarding revegetation and recovery. It was also during these early years that one of the most informative long-term data series began to develop. Across the range numerous repeat photography stations were established as a means to visually assess change in range dynamics over time. This ongoing data series continues to be one of the most enduring legacies of the SRER today. Concomitantly, federal management efforts were hyper-focused on conforming grazing practices to a fixed rate or fee structure across the West. As a result, there was tremendous pressure to develop a metric of fixed carrying capacity for every year that was both easily conveyed and repeatable on a large scale. This simplistic financial imperative was at odds with the observations of the early researchers of the SRER. Much of the terrain was still largely denuded as a result of grazing practices from the decades prior. Channeling and head cuts were increasingly common due to the lack of vegetation and removal of top soil. Early researchers also began to observe longer term vegetation

changes including the proliferation of mesquites beyond the washes to which they were typically relegated. David Griffiths, the first full time researcher of the SRER, highlighted the difficulties of quantifying a fixed metric of carrying capacity in 1904 “in a region where the seasons, the altitude, the slope and the rainfall are so variable.”

Griffiths observations demonstrate clearly the intrinsic challenges of observational science that continue today. The results of a controlled lab experiment are unlikely to be replicated in a natural setting. In a natural setting, however, there is limited control over variability, which as Griffiths notes, is compounded as a matter of scale. The broader the system the greater the number of variables introduced. This variation in both space and time is a defining characteristic for increasing biodiversity. Increased biodiversity lends itself only further to the complexity of an ecosystem thus making the practice of definitive predictions all the more tenuous.

The early efforts of Griffiths and others on the Santa Rita laid the groundwork for a more in-depth analysis of ecological function. While the debate on the efficacy of a fixed carrying capacity continued the foundations of ecology and conservation, we take for granted today were being born out on the newly formed experimental rangeland. The landscape variability highlighted by Griffiths in 1904 led to a cascade of research questions all aimed at trying to better understand basic rangeland processes at a level of detail not previously considered. This broadening of perspective led to the first direct studies of wildlife and other factors related to grazing practices on the SRER. Through 1945 primary research efforts continued to focus on rangeland recovery techniques and the streamlining of grazing efficiency. These initial wildlife studies, therefore, focused largely on aspects of competition and the perceived range degradation by rodents, lagomorphs and whitetail (Coues) deer. As a result, the formative ecological studies of this time were still largely a byproduct of an effort to maximize the utility of rangelands for economic gain.

The years following World War II saw a broadening of the research focus on the SRER. While revegetation and range recovery efforts were still ongoing new attention was paid to shrub and mesquite encroachment. The proliferation of woody species, documented decades earlier was now reaching a grand scale across the research range. Questions of landscape function and habitat alteration became more common in trying to understand how the density of mesquite affected cattle forage, nutrient cycling and soil health. A variety of vegetation control efforts were initiated with varying degrees of success and consequence across the SRER.



University of Arizona Bus at Box Canyon

Photographer unknown.
January 10, 1930.

During this period the number of wildlife studies continued to expand. The majority of research was still tailored to examine wildlife interactions as a potential competitive factor for cattle grazing. However, new focus was also paid to rodent and lagomorph activity as a potential ecosystem service and/or a contributing factor to shrub encroachment. This shift in perspective highlights the beginning of a cumulative understanding of the influence specific species may have within a given ecosystem. Additional focus was paid to small mammal population dynamics and physiology with limited works now also being conducted on avifauna that for the first time extended beyond game species such as quail.

“The years following World War II saw a broadening of the research focus on the SRER.”

The 1960's saw yet a further expansion of research ideology on the SRER. The battle to control mesquite was beginning to wane with only limited success. As a result, the notion of reverting back to a static state as a semi-arid grassland was diminished. Revegetation and restorative efforts lessened as did the number of mesquite studies overall. The economics of cattle grazing was still a prominent feature of the Santa Rita but evermore research began to focus on the big picture. Grazing practices now began to include increased periods of rest and adaptive shifts based on measured forage availability. This approach was headed by Clark Martin who examined in detail the relationship between grazing, forage production, rest periods and drought cycling. All indicators from this period point to a renaissance of thought regarding the dynamic nature of ecosystem function on the SRER. Martin's work was among the first published on the benefits of pasture rest as a means to promote long term forage production and rangeland health. Furthermore, Martin and others began to recognize the potential of grazing as a management tool when used properly. From this point forward livestock grazing was considered an integral part of the ecosystem that both contributes to and derives benefit from its environment. The associated effects of this novel application continue to inform adaptive management practices today.

The eventual breakout of ecological study was the logical end point for the progression of research that began on the range roughly a century earlier. The University of Arizona maintained an influential stake in the research of the experimental rangeland from its inception in 1902, however, management of the SRER officially transferred to the University following a federal land swap for the establishment of the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge in 1988. Under direction of the University of Arizona the research initiatives of the SRER have expanded ever further. Technological advancements combined with a global perspective on semiarid ecosystems and a changing climate continue to drive research today. Studies from subsurface nutrient cycling to atmospheric gas exchange and all points in between now inform our broader perspectives on the world around us. What started in 1902 as a novel concept for understanding landscape function and grazing management has since developed into an internationally recognized research facility for semiarid ecosystems. The predictive modeling sought by David Griffiths more than a century ago has now become a reality. Insights born out on the SRER and similar facilities across the globe now inform our ability to model potential changes in the face of a dynamic climate with an ever-expanding array of variables.

In his essay *Wilderness as a Laboratory* [A Sand County Almanac], Aldo Leopold put forth the idea that “A science of land health needs, first of all, a base datum of normality, a picture of how healthy land maintains itself as an organism”. Long-term datasets from the SRER have played a unique role in advancing our understanding of the dynamics of semiarid ecosystems. Though there is no static state, the data derived from the SRER go a long way in establishing Leopold’s base datum of normality by aiding in the identification and characterization of the primary drivers of ecological change. This understanding will be critical going forward as we try to predict how variation in temperature, precipitation and fire regime will ultimately influence a wide variety of wildlife habitat and overall ecosystem function. Worldwide grass and shrublands account for roughly 50-60% of the earth’s terrestrial environments (excluding Antarctica and Greenland) making the predictive insights derived from the SRER all the more applicable on a global scale.

In the end, the direct relationship of the SRER to wildlife conservation is nonlinear. Despite a diverse array of study, wildlife research never rose to a level of defined prominence. Even with an early focus on livestock interactions wildlife study on the SRER may be best defined as a loose aggregation of diverse research efforts “with no unified theme emerging” as noted by Paul Krausman, Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Management at the University of Arizona. However, Krausman also notes “though limited, several works [wildlife] were landmark studies that led the way for future work (for example water requirement studies, life history of small mammals, studies of coyotes and wildlife disease).” This point emphasizes the critical role biological field stations play in ecology and conservation. While these individual wildlife research efforts are of considerable importance, it is the combined nature of ecological study that ultimately informs today’s management and conservation efforts. Perhaps then the most notable contribution of the SRER to wildlife conservation is the novel shift from grazing practices as competitive and exclusionary to inclusive and even complimentary of wildlife. Whether through intent or circumstance the practice of integrating livestock grazing as a balanced and adaptive component of an ecosystem has led to wide ranging changes in grazing policy with intrinsic benefits for wildlife and habitat across the American West.



"Photo of Skippy" at Station No. 1106, 7/14/97

In spite of this progress, however, the need to understand the interplay between livestock grazing and wildlife population dynamics continues today. Overgrazing and habitat degradation, predation, competition and disease transfer are still factors affecting wildlife/livestock interactions around the world. The need for increased study regarding wildlife/human interactions is also of growing importance in the face of a burgeoning human population. Continued urbanization on the periphery of the SRER has led to a rise in non-permitted visitor use in accordance with Arizona State Land Department policy. Most notable is the dramatic increase in off-highway vehicle traffic especially related to off-road travel, disturbance of desert washes and dirt tanks as well as a general rise in litter accumulation on the roadways. The proliferation of these human caused disturbances has implications for the population dynamics of a wide array of plant and animal species far beyond the borders of the experimental range. Looking ahead the SRER should continue to serve as a model for informing grazing practices that are inclusive of wildlife. Additionally, this open-air ecological laboratory provides an ideal platform for the dynamic study of semiarid ecosystems as a means to better understand and mitigate the challenges precipitated by humanity's growing footprint. It is through this lens we look forward to the next century of discovery.



1903
Aug



2000
Apr

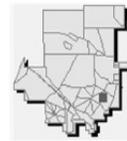


Photo Station
219 -2

Santa Rita Experimental Range, AZ



Rodent Experts Collecting Data

Photographer unknown.
October 10, 1932.



1902



1971 Sept



1951 Sept



2003 April

Santa Rita Experimental Range, AZ

Ugggg...the year 2020 will go down in history as one most of us would love to just erase! For the Arizona BOW, the new decade started out to be one of great promise. Our January workshop went off without an issue of any kind. We had perfect weather, perfect instructors and our participants were beyond perfect. We were sitting on the patio of Saguaro Lake Ranch on Sunday checking calendars and making plans for the Spring. There was the Game & Fish Expo, the Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club annual fishing clinic to attend. BOW was invited to both and we were excited to meet the masses and share our message. In between, we planned personal fishing trips. Our April workshop was filling fast. By late February, we had 70 ladies registered! There was still 6 weeks to go. We have struggled with attendance with that one for the last couple of years. BOW life was great.



And then it came. (Que Jaws music.) The Covid, the Rona, COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2; whatever name you give it. It crashed all of our parties, the ultimate Debbie Downer. AZ Game and Fish Expo: CANCELED, Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club fishing clinic, CANCELED. Ultimately, we had no choice but to cancel our April BOW workshop. For the first time in its 25-year history, the Arizona BOW was forced to cancel a workshop. Of course, it wasn't just us. Three-day BOW workshops across the country were canceled. Kansas, Vermont and all of the Canadian programs have canceled all traditional BOW camps for the remainder of the year.

The real question is how does one conduct a hands-on in a supportive atmosphere clinic wearing a face mask and from six feet away? How does one virtually learn to kayak? Our current model is just not conducive to the current CDC guidelines. Soooo...for the time being we will just have to change our model and hope that we will be able to go back to the tried and true system that has been so successful in the near future.



Wildflower identification class at Mini-BOW.



BOW ladies get geared up for their backpacking trip at Mini-BOW.



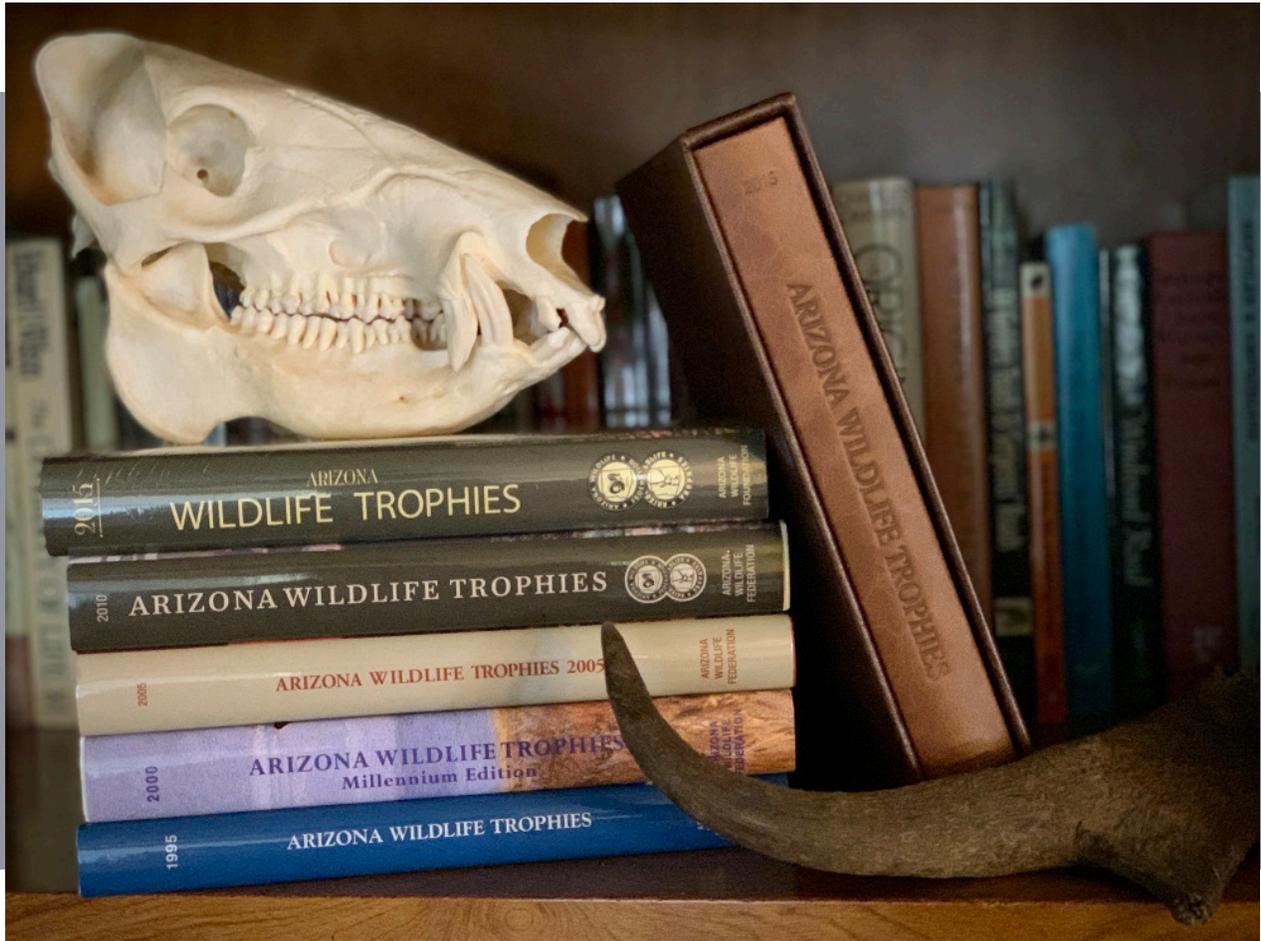
What Now?

Virtual Stuff: Nikki Julien did a wonderful series of videos and posted them on the Arizona Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Facebook page. She pared images of past workshops with music to match the theme of the pictures. These were released during the April dates of what would have been our Spring event. The idea is to keep folks engaged and ready to get out there again.

Mini BOW: On August 8th at the Nordic Village in Flagstaff we hosted “Mini-BOW” a one day event with the option of an overnight backpacking trip. Mini-BOW was prepared for COVID precautions by capping the large group to 30 and each class size to 6. The two three-hour sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon had a catered lunch in between. Choices for the morning were Bowhunting, Backpacking 101 and Survival. Afternoon offered are Arizona Wildflowers, Backpacking 102 and Wildlife ID. Masks were required and social distancing, but you can imagine that our 17 guests plus instructors found it challenging to keep six feet apart when there’s fun stories to tell and interesting things to learn. The Nordic Center did an excellent job with cleaning before and during our time with them. All and all Mini- BOW was a great experience and gave us confidence to proceed with the September BOW program.

As of putting the magazine together, September BOW is accepting registrations. The weekend is scheduled for 11th to the 13th and will mimic our regular programming with COVID precautions of masks, distancing, and restricted group sizes. Friendly Pines Camp in Prescott has been a wonderful partner during this upheaval and has allowed us to use more cabins so there’s less participants per cabin, gave us more places to eat so we can spread out during meals, and their cleaning and sanitizing procedures are proactive! Without their support, we couldn’t do the program and without our business another AZ small business would struggle too. We are all truly all in this together. We take our BOW seriously--your health is our health.

Records of Arizona Big Game



Pre-Order 2020 Records of Arizona Big Game (Formally Arizona Wildlife Trophies) Now!

Reserve your copy at the link below, or simply scan the QR code with your smartphone. When the book is available for delivery, we will notify you and send you an invoice to the email you provide. You can then pay online or print the invoice and mail with a check.



<https://www.azwildlife.org/PreOrder-2020-AZ-Record-Book>

Bequests/Planned Giving

The Arizona Wildlife Federation would like to thank Ms. Barbara Goldstein and her family for a generous gift that will leave a lasting legacy for Arizona's wildlife. Barbara lived a long life, passing at 92 years old, and cared deeply about animals. Barbara's family is grateful for the work the Arizona Wildlife Federation does to protect public lands and wildlife habitat.

Make a gift to the future of Wildlife

Making the Arizona Wildlife Federation part of your future plans is one of the most significant ways that you can have a lasting impact on Arizona Wildlife.

Discover ways you can help the Arizona Wildlife Federation by calling us at:

(480) 702-1365

Or writing us at:

AWF@azwildlife.org

Great American Outdoors Act

The GAOA is the Law and the LWCF is Fully Funded

The Arizona Wildlife Federation thanks all our congressmen and congresswomen who supported and voted in favor of this historic legislation. We would also like to thank our affiliate groups along with all the other conservation groups that worked so hard to see this through. Mostly, we would like to thank you, our members who took the time to make those calls and write those letters. Your voices matter and they were heard loud and clear!

The Great American Outdoors Act will play a vital role putting Americans back to work, vitalizing our outdoor economy, protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat, and providing access to the places that are the most valuable Arizona citizens.



The Land & Water Conservation Fund is Fully Funded!

Thank you

Senator Rymen Simms, Senator Martha McSally, Representative Paul Grisham, Representative David Schweikert, Representative Ruben Gallego, Representative Tom O'Halleran, Representative Greg Stanton, and Representative Ann Kirkpatrick.

Thanks to the Great American Outdoors Act, Arizona will benefit from cleaner air and water, protected public lands, more public parks, and access to Arizona's great outdoors.



Built For by Arizona Wildlife Federation. Not authorized by any candidate.

Become an AWF Member

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

AWF Membership Application

Name			Select Membership Level	
Billing Address			<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500 Life Member
City	State	Zip	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$45 Family - 1 year
Phone	Email		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$30 Individual - 1 year
<input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed			<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25 Distinguished Individual (65+ or Disabled Veteran)
<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		

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- | | | | | |
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