

Arizona's "Conserving Wildlife" License Plate Benefits Habitat, Education & Youth



PHOENIX, Arizona—Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation's (AZSFWC) "Conserving Wildlife" license plate ended 2017 surpassing the prior year both in license plate sales and more importantly, in grant awards from the proceeds!

Every time someone purchases or renews one of these specialty license plates through the state of Arizona, AZSFWC receives \$17 of the \$25 cost. These funds are placed in a dedicated account and each quarter AZSFWC assesses grant proposals from qualified organizations.

Last year, 16 different grants were awarded totaling \$170,665 in funding. Putting this into perspective, that meant 10,039 Conserving Wildlife license plates were purchased or renewed to fund those projects!

Grant money benefits numerous conservation education efforts, youth recruitment and retention as well as important habitat projects. AZSFWC awarded grant money to the AZ Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), the AZ Elk Society (AES) and the AZ Deer Association (ADA) for three notable habitat projects. Landscape scale habitat projects require a great deal of coordination and effort, spearheaded here by these three AZSFWC member organizations. The project work also requires a lot of collaboration with various contributors, from other NGO's, volunteers, State and Federal agencies and private landowners as well.

The NWTf effort continues with a multi-year landscape restoration project in the Pinaleno Mountains (Mt Graham) in Southeast Arizona. The Pinaleno Ecosystem Restoration Project will reduce dense timber stands in this part of the Coronado National Forest and will directly benefit both Gould's turkeys as well as the endangered Mt Graham red squirrel. This project began in 2013 and is projected to continue through 2020.

The AES project is another long term landscape scale habitat project in the Coconino National Forest near Clints Well, Arizona. The Long Valley Meadow Restoration

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Project has several partners restoring a forest meadow as well as enhancing the drainage, water table and waterway.

The ADA project is landscape scale habitat project near Payson Arizona in the Tonto National Forest. The Round Valley Grassland Restoration will remove juniper and other woody plants that have taken over former grasslands. The project will begin in 2018.

Since 2012, AZSFWC has awarded 100 grants totaling \$520,909.13!

You can go here to see some of our past grant recipients and funded projects.
<http://azsfwc.org/license-plate-fund-projects/>

If you are an Arizona resident, you can go here and get your own Conserving Wildlife license plate! <http://servicearizona.com/>

About Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation: AZSFWC is a 501c-3 nonprofit organization with 42 member and affiliate organizations representing more than 10,000 sportsmen and women. AZSFWC's Mission is to educate and inform sportsmen, wildlife conservation organizations throughout the state and the public at large on important issues related to wildlife and wildlife habitat, and to provide, via grants or other sources, funding to conserve Arizona's wildlife populations through habitat enhancement initiatives.

For more information about AZSFWC, go to our website at: <http://azsfwc.org/>
You can also contact the AZSFWC Administrator Tracy Unmacht at info@azsfwc.org or by phone at 602-361-6478.